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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CISNEROS).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 10, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable GILBERT RAY CISNEROS, Jr. to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Reverend Jesse Bernard Bilberry, Jr., Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, we come before You with hearts full of gratitude for giving us another day.

Your loving kindness, grace, and mercy have blessed us with all good and perfect gifts, which we know come from You, and with grateful hearts we say thank You.

You have promised to supply all of our needs according to Your riches in glory, and with this in mind, we thank You for the opportunity to serve the people of this great country.

Help us to be truly concerned about others. Locked together, we can withstand the storms of life. How true of us. We need the help of others.

We pray, especially, for the Members of the House. Please endow them with the wisdom they need as they work individually and collectively to accomplish the agendas set before them. And this country will be wiser, stronger, and better because they have tabernacled here today.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from 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.

WELCOMING REVEREND JESSE BERNARD BILBERRY, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. RICHMOND) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Jesse Bernard Bilberry, Jr.'s lifetime of service.

Reverend Bilberry has dedicated nearly four decades of pastoral service and educational leadership throughout the State of Louisiana. I am proud to have Reverend Bilberry as my constituent. He just recently retired from the historic Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church in Scotlandville, Louisiana, and was named pastor emeritus.

Reverend Bilberry began his career in service as an officer in the United States Army, and we owe him a deep seed of gratitude for his service to our country.

After an honorable discharge from the Army, Reverend Bilberry spent several years as an administrator at Southern University, ending his tenure there as director of admissions.

Reverend Bilberry has distinguished himself as a well-respected community and religious leader both at home and abroad. From leading missionaries in the West Indies to leading several service-oriented organizations and his church, Reverend Bilberry has led a life of compassion and courage that has resonated with the people of Baton Rouge and throughout the State of Louisiana.

I thank Reverend Bilberry for his tireless contributions serving his community throughout his career in ministry and education.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE CONCERNS

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

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, Democrats and Republicans support the Corporation for National and Community Service and all of its volunteer organizations like AmeriCorps, VISTA, and Senior Corps. President Trump's 2020 budget eliminates the Corporation and all the volunteer activities our communities rely on.

As we speak, the Corporation's CEO is executing a plan to close all 46 State offices in the next 90 days, which they are calling the Sustainability and Transformation Plan. Contrary to its name, this plan is a step towards accomplishing the administration's ultimate goal of eliminating national service and abandoning local volunteers and stakeholders.

Last month, the Corporation's own inspector general reported to Congress:

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''Aspects of this plan present heightened risks of fraud, waste, and mismanagement that warrant particularly close oversight.''

So now it is time for Congress to act to protect national service, not fund a plan that promotes fraud, waste, and abuse. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 1458, the Keep Community Service Local Act, which prohibits the closing of State offices.

ETO TESTING IN LAKE COUNTY

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

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, last month, I spoke on the floor about the urgent need for EPA ambient air testing at two manufacturing facilities in Lake County that use ethylene oxide, a known carcinogen.

As well, I and my colleagues in the Illinois delegation have written to the EPA urging them to undertake ambient air monitoring.

The neighbors living near these plants, as well as the local governments, need to know that the air they breathe is safe. Yet the EPA still refuses to conduct any ambient air monitoring, instead insisting on using dispersion models based on estimates of smokestack emissions.

Such dispersion monitoring is completely inadequate because it fails to account for what are known as fugitive emissions, EtO escaping into the environment from locations other than the smokestack.

Absent EPA leadership, the local municipalities and the Lake County Public Health Department have stepped up to pursue monitoring on their own.

Good for them, but it should not have come to this. They are only doing so because the EPA has failed to do its job.

Our communities deserve far better from the EPA. This is about our families and the public health. I urge the EPA to do its duty and to begin this vital testing immediately.

FAIRNESS FOR HIGH-SKILLED IMMIGRANTS ACT

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

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my support for H.R. 1044, the Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act, introduced by Congresswoman LOFGREN. This bipartisan legislation will help ease green card backlogs for those facing the longest wait times and help our businesses retain the high-skilled staff they need to be competitive.

Last month, I sat down with Sunayana Dumala, who shared her story with me.

It was only 2 years ago that our community was devastated when Sunayana's husband, Srinivas, was murdered in a hate crime in Olathe, Kansas. My predecessor helped her obtain a temporary visa, but she still faces a potentially decades-long wait to gain citizenship. This is because, with him gone, her status was at risk.

These green card backlogs need to be resolved. Sunayana is not alone. Many people have applied for permanent residency and are stuck in long backlogs for green cards.

H.R. 1044 creates a fair and equitable first-come, first-served system, helping to even out green card lines and helping to prevent excessive backlogs for folks like Sunayana. It allows U.S. companies to focus on what they do best: hiring people with the right skills to create products, services, and jobs.

This is a piece of a larger, more comprehensive reform needed to fix our broken immigration system.

ADVOCATING FOR MEDICAID BILL

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill to help working Americans access quality, affordable healthcare.

Last month, I introduced the bipartisan Medicaid Services Investment and Accountability Act, which has already unanimously passed the House and Senate. With the President's signature, this bill will help parents coordinate care for a sick child and protect seniors from going bankrupt to pay for their loved one's in-home care.

My bill will also address skyrocketing prescription drug costs by preventing pharmaceutical companies from cheating State Medicaid programs.

As an emergency physician, I know that timely access to care is critical to helping every family live a full, healthy, and productive life. We must put patients first.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the President to sign this important bill into law immediately.

IN HONOR OF DERRICK NELSON

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

Mr. MALINOWSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a hero in my district who passed away this week.

Mr. Derrick Nelson was the principal of the high school in Westfield, New Jersey. He was known to students, to parents, and to teachers for his generosity and selflessness.

Mr. Nelson dedicated his life to serving his country and community. He spent 20 years in the U.S. Army Reserves, including a deployment in the Middle East.

He began his career in New Jersey education in 2002 and joined the Westfield school system in 2010, officially becoming principal in 2017. Students and teachers said he always had a smile on his face, and his energy was infectious.

It was this kindness of spirit that led Mr. Nelson to donate his bone marrow to a 14-year-old boy in France. He did not know the boy, he just wanted to give something of himself to save a child's life.

He suffered a complication from the procedure. He never woke up.

Mr. Speaker, with the passing of Derrick Nelson, we have lost a leader in our community and a great and good man. I extend my deepest condolences to his family, and I hope they find comfort in knowing that the extraordinary legacy he leaves behind will continue to inspire and guide the people who had the privilege to know him.

SAVE THE INTERNET ACT OF 2019

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STANTON). Pursuant to House Resolution 294 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 1644.

Will the gentleman from California (Mr. CISNEROS) kindly take the chair.

□ 0915

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 1644) to restore the open internet order of the Federal Communications Commission, with Mr. CISNEROS (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Tuesday, April 9, 2019, a request for a recorded vote on amendment No. 6 printed in House Report 116–37 offered by the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. WEXTON) had been postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MS. DAVIDS OF KANSAS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 7 printed in part A of House Report 116–37.

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Chair, I rise today to offer an amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end the following:

SEC. 4. GAO REPORT ON BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS SERVICE COMPETITION.

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that—

(1) examines the efforts by the Federal Communications Commission to assess competition for providers of broadband Internet access service (as defined in section 8.2 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations) in the market;

(2) describes how the Commission can better assess competition; and

(3) includes a description of the steps, if any, the Commission can take to better increase competition among providers of broadband Internet access service (as defined in section 8.2 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations) in the market.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 294, the gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. DAVIDS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Kansas.

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment to the Save the Internet Act that helps the American consumer.

This amendment requires the Government Accountability Office to produce a report examining the FCC's efforts to assess competition in the wireline and wireless broadband internet access markets, and to tell us how the FCC can better assess competition in the future.

Driving competition in the telecommunications industry is good for innovation, consumer pricing, and availability of service. It only makes sense then that we should receive an accurate assessment of the FCC's current efforts to promote that competition and to ask the GAO how they might do it better.

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

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, although I am not opposed to the amendment itself.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chair, I support the goal of this amendment in assessing the broadband marketplace and how the government can increase competition, lower prices, and improve the quality of service. This is a worthy subject for GAO to look into, and I think we can gain valuable insights.

This is something we could have approved in the Energy and Commerce Committee had it been brought to us, but we accept it here on the floor.

But if we were really looking for ways to increase competition, Mr. Chairman, in the wireless broadband marketplace, then I am baffled why Democrats did not find the need to examine how 5G networks will be severely threatened by their bill.

Numerous reports from entities not even in the tech space indicate that title II, this overreaching government takeover and the incredible power being given to the FCC to take charge of the internet, presents serious challenges to 5G deployment and its amazing potential for technical improvements.

These reports come from Barclays, which focuses on investment and banking, Oracle, and even the IEEE, which is the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, so it is not a bunch of politicians talking about this, Mr. Chairman. These are certified smart people, otherwise known as the real engineers, that we went to.

To quote their analysis, ''5G networks face the challenge of being developed in a context of high uncertainty, where most of the services that underpin 5G business models appear to be unlawful under current rules.''

One example of the efficiencies that can be realized in a 5G network is network slicing which will allow operators to provide different services with different performance characteristics to address specific use cases. Because 5G is being designed for a wider range of use cases than prior technologies, it is critical that quality of service management be employed.

Applying net neutrality to these new 5G networks would cripple the performance of this incredible new technology.

Mr. GUTHRIE, a Republican from Kentucky, offered an amendment to address our serious concerns about the impact of the Democrats' bill on 5G, but that amendment to preserve the growth of 5G was not given an opportunity to be part of today's vote. Sadly, we can't even debate it. It is not here.

New 5G wireless networks will not only one day support apps and web pages, and texts, and chats, and video streams, but will also support a wide range of new technologies, from autonomous vehicles, augmented reality, innovations in healthcare delivery and education, to all other kinds of new advances, Mr. Chairman.

These new innovations, let alone the innovations beyond 5G to come, would be simply impossible, we now believe, and I think others believe independent of us, with these heavy-handed proposals that will result from title II power being given to bureaucrats in Washington. That is what the underlying bill would do.

It is worth remembering that until 2015, the Federal Communications Commission treated wireless networks differently when regulating net neutrality, because it did not want to impede the growth of a nascent technology. If we were to apply that same logic today, we should not burden developing 5G networks with onerous and outdated regulations, as these 5G networks are even more in their infancy than wireless was back in 2010, Mr. Chairman.

So we need to make sure that we don't handicap this next generation of technology with rules designed for rotary telephones that could cause us to delay or lose a global race to widely deploy 5G.

Mr. Chairman, those are my remarks. I support the underlying amendment, the Davids amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentlewoman from Kansas for this outstanding complementary amendment to a very important issue.

I am, I believe, very much supportive, and I am supportive of the idea of the GAO producing a report examining the FCC's efforts to assess competition. That is an important record that we in the Congress need, and it complements the Save the Internet Act which represents true net neutrality protections that are designed for today and tomorrow without loopholes.

The Save the Internet Act includes enhanced transparency protections and enacts specific rules against blocking, throttling, and paid prioritization.

Additionally, the Save the Internet Act empowers the FCC to stop internet service providers from undermining the net neutrality principles through new and harmful mechanisms, but we want to work with those providers.

My colleague just mentioned 5G. Nothing that we do here is going to inhibit, I believe, the opportunity for us to work together.

Ms. DAVIDS' amendment is a vital and important contribution to the idea of competition, and the idea of serving your area, and making sure that we understand how the competition is increased in wireline and wireless broadband internet access to many markets.

I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. I support her amendment, and I support the underlying bill, which is the Save the Internet Act, and I thank Mr. DOYLE for his leadership over the years in this legislation.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, I don't have any other speakers, I don't believe. I will continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE).

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

It is interesting to hear my good friend talk about 5G. When the majority talks about government control of the internet, they should turn their eyes to the White House and the President's plan to nationalize 5G.

The only socialist plan to take over the internet is the one coming from the Trump administration and their plan to nationalize 5G. I have documents for the RECORD talking about numerous articles where the Trump administration proposes to nationalize 5G, and the plan coming from the administration to secure 5G.

The gentleman keeps saying that this bill is a government takeover of the internet, but the only government takeover I see is the one that the White House keeps proposing.

Now, the amendment that is before us would ask the GAO to examine how the FCC assesses competition, including making recommendations on how to improve their assessment and how to increase competition in these vital markets. This is a key question for so

many consumer protections online, not just net neutrality.

This bill is about consumers, small business, and democratic values like competition. This is a good amendment. I support this amendment, and I urge all of my colleagues to support it as well.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chair, how much time do I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oregon has 1½ minutes remaining.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chair, I would recommend that my friend from Pennsylvania read this Barclays piece on what the bill likely could do to diminish the growth in 5G build-out, which I include in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[From Barclays, U.S. Cable, Telecom & Internet, March 25, 2019]

NET NEUTRALITY: BLUNT TOOL FOR A FAST-CHANGING ECOSYSTEM

More heat than light in present Net Neutrality debate: While Net Neutrality and related issues have evoked strong passions since the early 2000s, very little of the discussion has evolved despite significant technological and economic shifts. The issue has come back into focus with House Democrats introducing a new bill to reinstate the 2015 Internet Order which was repealed by the FCC post the election of President Trump. The issue is also making its way through the courts with 20+ states and tech companies predictably suing against the FCC's repeal. Therefore, this issue is likely to remain in the headlines especially given elections next year.

Reinstating 2015 Open Internet Order may make it tough to realize full potential of 5G: We believe that Net Neutrality formulations as proposed in Congress are blunt tools to deal with a fast-changing technological landscape. The entire premise of 5G is the ability to enable different network capabilities for different applications. The 5G standards development body, 3GPP, has outlined three major use cases for the technology: enhanced Mobile Broadband, Massive IoT, and ultra-reliable low latency. While all three are likely to be used for consumer-facing applications, two of the three major use cases are also being targeted at industrial users. Dimensions of data use will also be more varied than just speed or volume. Some applications will need to transmit small amounts of data at constant periods (e.g. smart meters) while others will need bursts of high bandwidth consuming traffic (e.g. fixed wireless). Therefore, if implemented, the 2015 Open Internet Order framework (ban on paid prioritization and throttling) without accounting for emerging technological capabilities and applications is likely to become a roadblock to 5G monetization.

Title II could have a bigger operational impact than Net Neutrality: While the Open Internet Order has implications for future business models, if adopted as law, a more immediate concern for Internet service providers will be the push to redefine broadband as a Title II service. Operationally, this could constrain the degrees of freedom around variables such as pricing a lot more than the Open Internet Order itself.

Overall, while the need for some framework on Net Neutrality is agreed to by both sides of the political divide, the current set of proposals are, in our view, inadequate with material limitations on future business models. The issue requires a comprehensive look at the entire value chain including the edge, but divided regulatory jurisdictions and a split Congress make this difficult to achieve. Therefore, for now, we believe the issue will be resolved by courts and is likely be a headline risk for telecom and cable companies.

While Net Neutrality evokes strong passions politically, very little of the discussion has evolved despite significant technological and economic shifts. We believe that Net Neutrality formulations as they exist today are blunt tools to deal with a fast-changing technological landscape.

For instance, the entire premise of 5G is the ability to enable different network capabilities for different applications. The 5G standard development body has outlined three major use cases for the technology. enhanced Mobile Broadband (eMBB), Massive IoT (mIoT) and ultra-reliable low latency (URLLC). While all three are likely to be used for consumer facing applications, two of the three major use cases are also being targeted at industrial users (mIoT and URLLC). Data use across these applications is likely to be quite varied. For instance, smart meters will need to transmit small amounts of data at constant periods while consumer broadband works on bursts of high bandwidth consuming traffic such as video. Applications such as autonomous cars and remote surgery may value lower latency and higher edge computing capacity compared to, for example, checking email or watching video.

This is quite different from previous generations of wireless standards which thus far have been largely focused on consumer applications. The way Congress appears to be looking at Net Neutrality today or the way the FCC has looked at this in the past would effectively result in operators being forced to provide the same level of service to every application which will not only result in waste but also limit the impact of 5G. In fact, if the promise of 5G is realized the way it has been outlined by operators globally, the whole meaning of what a telecom 'service' means (is it latency? is it speed? it is edge compute?) and how it is measured is likely to change meaningfully.

Some conditions included in the 2015 Order such as paid prioritization and throttling could in theory make it impossible to deploy and monetize some of the features that make 5G a bigger shift than prior generations. In a 5G world, this would make it impossible in theory to prioritize latency for, as an example, a driverless car versus somebody watching Netflix. Of course regulators can fine-tune these definitions but that is not what the House bill seeks to do. It effectively passes this judgment to an administrative body—the FCC. Given that FCC decisions on this issue have been split along political affiliations of the Commissioners, every regime at the FCC could make opposing decisions making the implementation of any policy next to impossible. This opens up the entire issue to a lot of uncertainty which is likely to limit the ability of service providers to formulate go-to-market plans for 5G.

We also believe that the Net Neutrality framework as of today (no prioritization, no blocking and no throttling) is without any nuance to deal with what might be legitimate and consumer-friendly use cases. For instance, Netflix alone consumes ~19% of downstream bandwidth (wireless and wired) in the US today. In the early days of cable, when bandwidth in the cable pipe was limited due to analog signals, content networks had to pay cable companies for carriage. This allowed a market-based mechanism for viable networks to effectively 'buy' bandwidth and scale their services based on how widely they were distributed. Netflix however doesn't have to worry about this dynamic. It can make its technology decisions independent of the investment needs of the network. In theory, Netflix can decide to stream all its videos in 4K and suck up even more bandwidth, which will be to the detriment of other applications on the Internet and force cable and wireless companies to increase their network investment. At the same time, cable companies will have to deal with broadband price monitoring by the FCC (which the 2015 Open Internet Order enables), limiting their ability to pass through price to the consumer or to Netflix (due to a ban on paid prioritization).

Overall, while the need for some framework on Net Neutrality is unquestionable, the move by the House to just pass the buck back to the FCC to deal with the details is not the right answer in our opinion. This needs a legislative solution on the scale of the 1996 Telecommunications Act but this is almost impossible in the current environment. As a result, we believe this issue is likely to remain unresolved for a long time to come. Near-term, however, if this legislation were to pass, it could have a bigger impact on wireless 5G plans than on wireline operators.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chair, I would also point out, actually, that the bill would regulate 5G. We had a vote in committee to prevent that from happening, and every Democrat on the committee voted to regulate 5G through this legislation and give the FCC that authority, and every Republican voted the other way, because we actually vote for open and free internet and markets.

I know that the gentleman, my friend, was pretty busy when the President's people made their statement. I commented that day that I didn't think that was a good approach. So I have been on record, and I think most of my colleagues have as well. That is kind of an argument that, Mr. Chairman, I don't think holds much water.

What we do know is, we are legislating today, and the Democrats' legislation will regulate 5G, and the people who evaluate the effect of that say that is going to harm development, rollout, and probably investment as well.

Mr. Chair, the underlying amendment is good, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. DAVIDS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MR. STANTON

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 8 printed in part A of House Report 116–37.

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end the following:

SEC. 4. ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH IN INDIAN COUNTRY REGARDING THE IMPORTANCE OF ADDRESSING THE UNIQUE BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS SERVICE CHALLENGES.

(a) ENGAGEMENT WITH TRIBAL COMMUNITIES TO ADDRESS BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS

SERVICE NEEDS.—Not later than 3 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Federal Communications Commission shall engage with and obtain feedback from Tribal stakeholders and providers of broadband Internet access service (as defined in section 8.2 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations) on the effectiveness of the Commission's obligation to consult with Indian Tribes to determine whether the Commission needs to clarify the Commission's Tribal engagement statement and ensure accessible and affordable broadband Internet access service (as defined in section 8.2 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations) in the Tribal lands and areas through the engagement and outreach.

(b) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

(1) According to an estimate from the U.S. Census Bureau, just 53% of Native Americans living on Tribal lands have access to high-speed internet service.

(2) The Government Accountability Office has found that the Federal Communications Commission data has overstated broadband availability and access on Tribal lands in the United States.

(3) A Federal court recently vacated a Federal Communications Commission order that limited Federal subsidies for wireless providers serving Tribal lands.

(4) The United States Government, industry, and non-governmental organizations should do more to identify and address the unique broadband access challenges faced by individuals living on reservations and Tribal lands.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 294, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STANTON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Chairman, access to high-speed internet is absolutely essential in today's economy. It is the key component to our Nation's innovation infrastructure.

Yet, on Tribal lands across this country, a digital divide exists. According to the estimate from the U.S. Census Bureau, only 53 percent of Native Americans living on Tribal lands have access to high-speed internet, compared to 82 percent of households nationally.

A recent report by the Government Accountability Office examined how the Federal Communications Commission collects, validates, and uses data on broadband availability. It found that the FCC overstates the availability of broadband internet service on Tribal lands.

For example, if a service provider reports that it could provide broadband service internet access to at least one location in a census block, the FCC considers broadband to be ''available'' in that census block. That doesn't make much sense, and the GAO agreed.

It found that the FCC's available status is applied too broadly, sometimes including communities without infrastructure that connects homes to a service provider's network.

It also found that the FCC does not collect information on factors such as affordability, quality, and denials of service. FCC data that accurately captures the availability of broadband is critical because the Federal Government relies on the data to make important investments.

Without accurate data, the Federal Government will have difficulties identifying the true needs and cannot make appropriate investments. Part of the challenge in the lack of reliable data stems from the lack of meaningful consultation and engagement with Tribal Nations.

Tribal consultation is more than just checking a box. It is important for the FCC to not only listen to Tribes, but to actively engage and learn from them. Only by doing so will we be better able to get information on where the needs are. That will lead to better decisions and better outcomes.

My amendment would implement one of the GAO's recommendations. It would direct the FCC to seek feedback from Tribal stakeholders and providers on the effectiveness of its Tribal consultation, as well as ensure accessible and affordable broadband on Tribal lands.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 0930

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, I share similar concerns to Mr. STANTON about promoting broadband deployment on Tribal lands. I have visited a number of reservations around the country, including in Arizona, as well as, of course, in my own State of Oregon and elsewhere.

This is a big issue, and the data are not complete. I agree with you that we need to do better. In fact, that is true, and I think we would all agree that the data the FCC gets, has, and uses has been a problem for a very long time. We have to get better so that when we allocate these funds to do the build-out and everything else, we are getting funds to the people who really need them. That is especially a problem with our Native American friends.

In fact, while I was presiding over the Energy and Commerce Committee last Congress, we accomplished landmark legislation with the enactment of RAY BAUM'S Act. That reauthorized the FCC, and it included language to improve services on Tribal lands, Mr. Chairman.

We need to make sure that the policies we impose on the internet support broadband deployment, especially deployment in Tribal, rural, and very rural areas. Oftentimes, the Tribal areas consist of rural areas where we have very small internet service providers providing access to the internet, and they are desperately trying to find funding to expand their service footprint.

I was a small business owner with my wife for more than 20 years. I will tell you, you are trying to grow your small business, and then the government comes in and says: Oh, we want more information. We want more requirements. And we are going to regulate you more.

Mr. Chairman, all that does is take your money and your plan to invest and diverts it. You don't get to do as much as you had planned to do. That is why I supported an amendment to the underlying bill that would have specifically protected a small business from the heavy hand of overreporting.

That amendment would have included the language of my bill on small businesses that was passed unanimously by the House in each of the last two Congresses—unanimously, right here on this floor. It would have extended the exemption for small ISPs from President Obama's FCC's enhanced transparency rules for 5 years and expanded the exemption to include businesses with 250,000 subscribers or less.

This was based on a bipartisan compromise that the FCC's original exemption was not enough to protect small ISPs. We all agreed to that. We negotiated that and twice passed that unanimously in the House.

I agree that all consumers should be protected, but the enhanced transparency rules could deter broadband from being deployed further on Tribal lands and reaching consumers in the first place. That is because these enhanced disclosures place an unnecessary regulatory burden on small businesses and distract them from working to bring broadband internet access to customers across the country, especially on Tribal lands.

As a reminder, my amendment would not have let ISPs skirt transparency. It did not do that. We are just talking about really costly reporting requirements. Instead, they would follow the less onerous transparency rules adopted by the FCC back in 2010 so consumers would still have access to information needed to make informed decisions about their internet service, and ISPs could focus on providing service rather than cumbersome regulatory requirements.

There is bipartisan consensus in improving broadband deployment to Tribal lands and, I think, our rural areas and our urban areas that are underserved. But it seems my colleagues across the aisle don't support this as much as we claim and they claim. Otherwise, I would have expected the amendment I had, which reflected exactly what we twice agreed to, to be part of the underlying bill. It is not, and that is unfortunate. But Mr. STANTON's work is valuable, and I support it.

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

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the comments from Congressman WALDEN.

I would say, in this particular case with this particular amendment, this is not the government asking for information from entities that don't want to provide it. Just the opposite, the Tribal communities in my State and across the United States of America want to provide this information and want this very detailed consultation with the FCC so that we can provide better investments on Tribal lands.

This is a situation where government involvement is very much welcomed by the entities that we are asking the FCC to better consult with. This is welcome government intervention.

Mr. Chairman, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE).

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I would say to my good friend, Mr. WALDEN, and he is my good friend, that if you think the President's plan to nationalize 5G is a bad idea—and I kind of recall the gentleman saying that. As recently as yesterday, the administration in its campaign is still talking about nationalizing 5G. Perhaps it is time to get on the phone or to stand up here on the House floor publicly and talk about some action that we can take as a Congress to make sure that the White House doesn't nationalize 5G.

With the amendment before us, bridging the digital divide is one of the great challenges the FCC faces today. The Save the Internet Act is going to give the FCC new tools to address that digital divide.

Although broadband technologies keep getting better, they are not reaching everyone, especially those in remote areas, like Native Americans living on Tribal lands. These populations face unique challenges in getting high-speed internet access service. That is why it is critical that the FCC focus on identifying and addressing obstacles to getting high-speed internet onto reservations and Tribal lands.

This amendment would instruct the FCC to work more closely with Native Americans to help connect Tribal lands. This amendment is particularly important because of the Trump FCC's illegal attempt to reduce support for the Lifeline program to Tribal communities. This decision was ultimately found to be illegal by the courts. However, it is critical that the Commission talk and listen to the people who understand the problems and represent the communities lacking broadband.

Mr. Chairman, I support this commonsense amendment.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, I will be brief here. The only effort to nationalize 5G and to fully regulate 5G is contained in the Democrats' bill. That is where it is happening.

We had an amendment in the Rules Committee to prevent that, and the Democrats who control the Rules Committee by a 2-to-1 margin refused to even allow us to debate that amendment here on the floor.

Finally, the President never said he was going to nationalize 5G. Somebody leaked a memo out of the White House that said that is a good idea. I oppose that. Right that same day, within hours, they had been clear on that.

Let's be clear here. The facts of the matter are that this legislation nationalizes and regulates 5G like it has never been done before and threatens innovation and development of this exciting new opportunity for American consumers.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from the great State of California (Mr. MCCARTHY), who is the Republican leader.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise to ask a simple yet important question, a question more and more Americans are beginning to ask: What have the Democrats done with their majority?

This Friday marks the 100th day of the new Democratic majority, 100 days of Democratic disappointment.

Today, we were supposed to debate the Democrats' shell budget, but Speaker PELOSI pulled it. So here we are, debating another bill that is dead on arrival in the Senate.

The numbers speak for themselves. At this point in the last Congress, Republicans had passed 141 bills out of committee and 132 out of the House.

We all believe in accountability, so what do the numbers say now? By contrast, Democrats have passed 68 bills out of committee and 97 out of the House, considerably fewer bills out of this House than before.

But think about this: Democrats have passed more bills out of the House than they have out of the committee. So much for doing the job of the people's House. No. It is whatever leadership decides.

Mr. Chairman, we have been lectured countless times by Speaker PELOSI over the years, and you all know the comments: Show us your budget, show us your values.

It hasn't been said once, it has been said hundreds of times: Show us your budget, show us your values.

The Speaker and I have disagreements, but I agree that passing a budget is the fundamental responsibility of the majority. That is not what we are doing today. Unfortunately, it looks like we will never know the true values of this majority because there is no budget.

Mr. Chairman, the problem goes beyond the Democrats' lack of results. As a majority, the Democrats have focused on three principles above all else: resolutions, radicalism, and resistance.

One in five votes in this House that has been taken since the end of January were nonbinding messaging resolutions. Just last week, we wasted time debating a symbolic resolution on healthcare. Imagine for a moment if we had instead spent one-fifth of our time actually working to lower premiums, expand choice, or improve quality. Imagine all that we could have achieved.

Right now, we have a humanitarian crisis along our southern border. What if we spent one-fifth of our time working to improve border security and fix the loopholes in our immigration system?

No, Mr. Chairman. Democrats would rather consider another nonbinding resolution.

I have never known anybody who has run for office who was asked to make sure you go to Congress to waste time on votes that do not matter. They send us here to deliver solutions, not resolutions.

Mr. Chairman, the American people deserve better.

Perhaps the Democratic majority is so focused on resolutions because they don't want the American people to understand the consequences of their radical, extremist policies.

The Wall Street Journal wrote: ''Democrats are embracing policies that include government control of ever-larger chunks of the private American economy.''

Or, as I like to say, if you like the welfare state, you will love the Democratic agenda.

Take the Green New Deal. Under the guise of fighting climate change, it will lead to government control over nearly every element of our lives. What it wouldn't do is make housing more available or even energy more affordable for hardworking families.

How about Medicare for All? How do you like a one-size-fits-all healthcare system where government bureaucrats, not consumers, decide what benefits you are going to receive?

Mr. Chairman, do you know that more than 100 Democrats in the majority have cosponsored this bill? So not only do they support it, they crave it to come to the floor.

What would it do? It would end private insurance. That means 158 million Americans would lose their insurance. And everybody on Medicare Advantage? Gone.

That is what they worked on these first 100 days.

Your doctor? Gone.

Your hospital? Gone.

Your healthcare plan? Gone.

On issue after issue, Democrats seem to have but one solution: more spending, more bureaucracy, and more government control.

Mr. Chairman, the American public deserves better.

Finally, you can learn a lot about this majority by seeing the bills they refused to consider these first 100 days.

After spending weeks unwilling to condemn anti-Semitic remarks, you would think House Democrats would rush to schedule real legislation. We have a bill sitting at the Speaker's desk right now that would take concrete steps to counter the growing boycott, divestment, sanctions movement

against our greatest ally in the Middle East, Israel. You would think that, Mr. Chairman, but that would be wrong.

You would think that after the Virginia Governor made comments that seemed to support infanticide, House Democrats would rush to schedule the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act. Remember, this bill simply ensures that all babies, regardless of when they are born, receive the medical care they deserve as human beings. Yet for the 31st time—no exaggeration, 31 times we have asked on this floor for unanimous consent to bring that bill up—Democrats have refused.

That is what they spent 100 days on. They refuse to defend newborns from infanticide because they are beholden to the most extreme factions of their own party.

Mr. Chairman, the American people deserve better.

The only unifying theme of the Democrats' 100 days has been their nonstop resistance to President Trump. For 2 years, Democrats insisted that the President colluded with Russia to win the 2016 election. Their own chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, the one who is supposed to see and protect us, told the American public in 2017 that there was more than circumstantial evidence to prove it.

Yet when the Mueller report found no evidence of collusion, Democrats refused to accept the conclusion. They refused to do anything to ADAM SCHIFF who had lied to the American public for the last 2 years. They didn't apologize for misleading the public either.

No, without missing a beat and aided by the liberal media, they simply opened up new investigations. That is what they did for their 100 days.

Who pays for these endless investigations? You, the hardworking taxpayer. The Democrats are happy to continue to run up the tab and never bring a budget to the floor to show their values.

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Mr. Chair, the American public deserves better.

Today, the Democrats are leaving for their Member retreat and then a 2-week spring break. Let's hope they come back with more than a tan. Let's hope they come back with a new game plan. Let's hope they come back ready to work for the common good, not simply to appease their extremist, radical base.

Now, we are ready and eager to work with Democrats. We are ready to work with Democrats to secure our border. We are ready to work with Democrats to upgrade our infrastructure. We are ready to work with Democrats to lower the cost of prescription drugs and address the opioid crisis.

We stand ready to work with anyone to solve the problems our country faces, in the next 100 days and beyond. After 100 days, please, Mr. Chair, let's get to work. The American people deserve nothing less.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. NEGUSE). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STANTON).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MR. TRONE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 9 printed in part A of House Report 116–37.

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end the following:

SEC. 4. ACCURACY OF DATA UNDERLYING BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT REPORTS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The Commission has released reports on its inquiries under section 706(b) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (47 U.S.C. 1302(b)) that detail the state of the deployment of broadband service in the United States.

(2) Congress and the Commission have relied upon the accuracy of such reports to develop broadband policy.

(3) The findings of such reports have been particularly important to fostering rural broadband deployment and broadband deployment to schools and classrooms.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The Commission—

(1) may not release a report on an inquiry under section 706(b) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (47 U.S.C. 1302(b)) based on broadband deployment data that the Commission knows to be inaccurate; and

(2) shall use its best efforts to accurately detail broadband deployment in the United States and correct inaccuracies in statements made by the Commission prior to the release of a report about the report.

(c) COMMISSION DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''Commission'' means the Federal Communications Commission.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 294, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. TRONE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In 21st century America, having reliable, high-speed internet broadband isn't a luxury; it is a necessity. Just like running water or electricity, it is part of our essential infrastructure, yet millions of Americans in rural communities, including some in my district in western Maryland, remain disconnected from the internet.

That lack of connectivity leads to homework gaps, healthcare gaps, and economic development gaps. It is our job in Congress to eliminate those gaps.

The Federal Communications Commission is required to report accurate data to the public so that we can make effective decisions about rural broadband infrastructure policy and investment.

But there is strong evidence that the percentage of Americans without broadband access is much higher than the FCC's numbers indicate.

In order to justify Chairman Pai's deregulation agenda, the FCC released highly flawed and misleading data that paints a false picture of broadband deployment in rural America.

We now know the FCC's data was based on a massive error that was brought to his attention before the FCC disseminated the press release touting their success. That kind of deception could lead to millions of our neighbors in rural America being locked out of this critical good.

This amendment seeks to address this issue by, one, prohibiting the FCC from releasing a report based on information it knows to be inaccurate; and, two, specifying the Commission must use its best efforts to ensure all future reports are accurate, and they must correct past inaccuracies prior to the release of new data on broadband deployment.

It is pretty simple. We need accurate information to make the best decisions regarding broadband deployment. Let's ensure we get that from the FCC moving forward, and then let's ensure every American has access to reliable high-speed broadband.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, but I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I appreciate my colleague's concern about the accuracy of the FCC's reports on deployment. I share those. And with his broader concern about broadband generally, I agree with that.

In fact, many Members on both sides of the aisle share these concerns, especially when it comes to the unserved Americans in our most rural areas, like my district that would stretch from the Atlantic to Ohio. It is a big district.

So, I will support this amendment. However, I would ask my colleagues to seriously consider, Mr. Chairman, the negative impacts of giving the FCC power to regulate rates on rural broadband deployment.

Mr. KINZINGER's amendment to block any sort of rate regulation was actually blocked by the majority from being considered today, and that is unfortunate.

At the full committee markup, Mr. KINZINGER highlighted a memo from the Congressional Research Service that noted there is nothing permanent to the forbearance that the majority claims to be doing when it comes to controlling the prices providers charge consumers.

So, we could get into rate regulation through the FCC, and every ISP would have to come back here and beg and explain their rate structure and everything else. And we have got thousands of them.

The majority attempted to remedy this flaw with some additional language purporting to lock in the FCC's forbearance on this matter, but the actual effect of that language is still unclear.

Most importantly, they left open the broad authority of sections 201 and 202 of the Communications Act and other authority that gives the Federal Communications Commission, all five unelected officials, plenty of leeway to regulate rates under title II.

The legislation we have before us clearly leaves the door open to rate regulation. If this were not the case, then the Kinzinger amendment, I would think, would be before the House today or would have been approved in committee when we had a chance to do that.

This is no way to conduct business in the internet age. These title II regulations were originally implemented for railroad monopolies in the 19th century. So, if you really believe in a competitive, open marketplace and a competitive, open internet, you don't turn it over to unelected bureaucrats in Washington to micromanage.

As they were applied in their original incarnation, the requirements of just and reasonable practices under section 201(b) and no unreasonable discrimination under 202(a)—which, by the way, sound perfect—provided sufficient authority to impose price controls on railroads.

So, by opening the door with title II and these other sections of law, you are now giving this vast power to basically three unelected officials at the FCC. You just need a majority to decide how the whole internet runs. I think that is a problem.

Mr. Chair, I support the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for his comments.

Mr. Chairman, good policy simply needs good data. We need accurate, reliable information to target our policies and resources as effectively as possible.

This amendment simply ensures reports issued by the FCC are accurate, and we should all be able to agree on that. And I thank the gentleman for that.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, I have no other speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Chair, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE).

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, the Save the Internet Act will ensure net neutrality and help bring the internet to parts of the country that don't yet have it.

I would say to my friend from Oregon, the bill is crystal clear on rate regulation. The language clearly prohibits any rate regulation, so rural folks need not worry about that.

Through the act, the FCC will have the authority to accelerate deployment of broadband by removing barriers to infrastructure investment and by promoting competition. And, furthering that goal, Congress requires that the FCC report on the state of broadband deployment nationwide.

The results, every year, are particularly important because they are used to figure out where to best direct funds for rural broadband deployment. And to name a few, that is important for consumers, schools, libraries, and hospitals that they get the connections they need.

And we need to know that the FCC's data is accurate. We expect the FCC to use its best efforts to ensure that the data is up to date and error free before releasing their reports.

Recently, the traditional diligence of the FCC has been called into question. According to news reports, the FCC is preparing a report that contains data that an internet service provider has told the FCC is wrong. The carrier reported that it provided high-speed broadband to everyone in 10 states when its actual service area was a fraction of that.

This serious oversight seriously alters the state of broadband deployment in this country and calls into question data used by this administration to justify other policies.

Despite that internet service provider coming forward, the FCC has not even corrected a press statement that was, in part, based on that erroneous data entitled ''America's Digital Divide Narrows Substantially.''

As the expert agency regulating broadband, it cannot knowingly put out false information that misleads the public. This amendment will help remedy that. That is why I support it, and that is why I think we should all vote for it.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chair, may I inquire how much time I have remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oregon has 2½ minutes remaining.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Again, I appreciate the gentleman's amendment. As I said, I intend to support it. We need the facts here, and I support getting the facts.

We know the reporting data we often get is not accurate. And, if people are lying about their data, then we should hold them accountable, and I'll join you in that effort. That is not acceptable.

On the issue of rate regulation, that is what title II is all about. That is what this bill gives the FCC the authority to do.

While you can argue that adopting the forbearances that the FCC did under title II when they had that authority may preclude rate regulation there, by giving them this enormous authority, your own counsel testified in answer to our question, that they could go through a standard rulemaking process and use sections 201 and 202 to do their own rate regulation.

You see, you may close the front door, but you left the back door open. Actually, you created a back door.

That is where I am concerned, and my side is concerned that you are empowering the FCC with these incredible authorities designed for monopoly railroads and designed for monopoly communications systems that could really hamper future investment in things like 5G and provide all this micromanagement of the internet and harm consumers. That is why so many of us oppose this particular provision.

I keep seeing Republicans on this floor, Mr. Chairman, accept the Democrats' amendments in almost every case. They blocked some of ours from being able to be considered.

But, when it comes to this fundamental issue of turning the internet over to the Federal Government and three unelected people to do incredible things that aren't good for the long-term benefit of consumers and new technologies, we have to remain opposed.

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

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. TRONE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MR. BRINDISI

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 10 printed in part A of House Report 116–37.

Mr. BRINDISI. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end the following:

SEC. 4 GAO REPORT ON HIGH-SPEED INFRASTRUCTURE.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress and the Federal Communications Commission a report that contains—

(1) a list of ways the Federal Government can promote the deployment of broadband Internet access service, especially the buildout of such service to rural areas and areas without access to such service at high speeds; and

(2) recommendations with respect to policies and regulations to ensure rural areas are provided affordable access to broadband Internet access service.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS SERVICE.—The term ''broadband Internet access service'' has the meaning given such term in section 8.2 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations.

(2) RURAL AREA.—The term ''rural area'' means any area other than—

(A) a city, town, or incorporated area that has a population of more than 20,000 inhabitants; or

(B) an urbanized area contiguous and adjacent to a city or town that has a population of more than 50,000 inhabitants.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 294, the gentleman from New York (Mr. BRINDISI) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. BRINDISI. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I would like to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for his leadership on this important topic.

The free market is the cornerstone of America's economy, and this bill would ensure that free-market competition is protected on the internet.

However, for many Americans living in small towns, basic internet access remains out of reach. Too many homes in rural areas are not connected at all to high-speed broadband, and those that are online suffer from slow speeds and constant interruptions in service.

Customers see their bills go up month after month, and service just gets worse and worse.

Internet access is essential in today's economy, and we need to do more to connect rural areas to high-speed broadband.

My amendment would direct the Government Accountability Office to issue recommendations on how to expand broadband internet service in rural and other underserved areas. This information will help guide our work on how to best expand broadband access in rural communities.

I urge adoption of my amendment, and I, again, thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for his leadership on this bill and urge our colleagues to pass the underlying legislation.

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

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

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Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, again, I support this amendment to require the GAO to look into ways to promote deployment of broadband to our most rural and underserved areas. It is a very worthy subject and one on which I think we can find some really broad bipartisan agreement. It is a top priority of mine and has been, so I won't oppose the amendment.

We are obviously delegating a lot of authority to the GAO, which is a wonderful organization, but we all have had hearings and know what really needs to happen, I think, going forward to get broadband built out. However, if you are really concerned about deployment to rural and underserved areas, you should be extremely concerned about the impact the underlying bill is going to have on our ability to get broadband out to these areas and close the digital divide.

Title II is a proven investment killer, period, hard stop. This is shown not only in the overall nationwide investment numbers going down during the only 2-year blip these rules were in effect. Remember, my colleague from New York, these internet rules you are about only existed for less than about 2 years. That is it.

The whole growth, the expansion of the internet and broadband occurred during the period of the 1990s to 2015. Then the internet order was put in and investment went down, and then the internet order was repealed and investment is going up.

The head of the Eastern Oregon Telecom Company, Joe Franell, came back to Washington and testified before our subcommittee and said, under title II, his investors lost interest; deals dried up; the bank wouldn't even give him a loan. It was an extremely compelling story from somebody who is on the front lines of getting broadband built out to the very areas you and I would agree need service.

And we heard from many other small rural ISPs as well with the same stories. They are the ones that take the worst hit under title II that is in this bill you support.

Now, I submitted an amendment to the Rules Committee to do something real to address the worst uncertainties that these small carriers have to deal with under title II.

Title II opens the door to government control of private networks. It opens the door to government taxation of the internet. It opens the door to government regulation of speech online.

My amendment would have closed all of those doors. Unfortunately, the Democrats, again, who control the Rules Committee, Mr. Chairman, 2 to 1, would not find a way to even allow us to bring that amendment here for a vote or debate.

I have to say, under title II, our smallest rural ISPs would have a really tough time, and we have seen a lot of evidence of this in the past. So I hope my friends will consider that, when we are voting on this underlying bill, we are actually going to cause those small ISPs more harm than good, and that will delay deployment into unserved and underserved communities.

A GAO study on deployment will have no impact whatsoever on deployment-killing excesses of title II, but it will give us some ideas about how to build out broadband, so I won't oppose the amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRINDISI. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

We keep hearing this talk about how investment plummeted after the 2015 order. Well, we all know that is not true, and the proof is in the pudding.

Investment data shows an aggregate increase in investment following the FCC's February 2015 vote to adopt the open internet rules compared to the 2 years following the repeal of the 2015 order, when investment actually decreased.

The same is true of most ISPs' individual investments. The majority of publicly traded broadband providers reported investment increases after the 2015 order was adopted. In the first year following adoption of the 2015 rules, census data showed a $3.5 billion jump in capital spending in data processing, hosting, and related services.

Moreover, the repeal of the 2015 order did not result in a use boost to infrastructure spending, as the Trump FCC asserted would happen. Instead, investment actually decreased.

This amendment before us is important. Though many of our constituents enjoy easy access to high-speed broadband, there are still many pockets of this country that aren't served by high-speed broadband. Or, as my good friend PETER WELCH from the great State of Vermont says about the promises of 5G: ''Some of us have no Gs.''

The Save the Internet Act is going to restore net neutrality throughout the country, and it is going to give the FCC key authorities that buttress critical programs, such as the Connect America Fund that provides money to build high-speed broadband out to areas where it would not be economic to do so without the funding.

The Save the Internet Act also gives internet service providers nondiscriminatory access to rights of way and poles, which will facilitate build-out in rural areas.

Unless we connect our rural communities, the people in them cannot fully be active participants in the 21st century economy. They are missing out on education and workforce opportunities that are so often now delivered online. That is why much of the rural broadband deployment in this country is funded by the Connect America Fund.

This amendment would require GAO to examine these issues and to provide a report with recommendations about how the government can promote build-out to hard-to-reach or otherwise overlooked communities. This is such an important policy issue and such an important part of saving the internet.

I look forward to joining my colleagues in supporting this amendment.

Mr. BRINDISI. Mr. Chairman, I again urge adoption of the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chair, may I inquire as to how much time remains.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Oregon has 2¼ minutes remaining.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chair, I appreciate both my colleagues' comments, but the nationwide numbers of investment obscure what happens in our smallest investors, among those that are out

there, like Joe Franell in Eastern Oregon trying to build out.

What we do know is he came back and testified to the problem he encountered individually as one who is very progressive and active, trying to connect really difficult places to get to with the highest speed broadband possible.

I have met with him before; I have met with him during; I have met with him afterwards. He came back on his own dime to make the case that, when these rules were in effect, he had difficulty getting loans; he had difficulty building out; he was burdened more than he had ever been before, and that diminished his ability to build out.

His numbers probably are dust in terms of investment that the big companies have, but that is who I care about are the little operators that are so pushed down by this heavy hand of government overregulation. So that is, I think, what we have to maintain our focus on.

Again, title II gives these vast unprecedented powers to the FCC to regulate the internet like it has never been regulated before. People who have no Gs need our help, but people waiting for 5G don't need us to pass legislation that will screw it up and diminish innovation, and that is one of the reasons I am opposing this version of net neutrality.

We could agree on no throttling and no blocking and the paid prioritization issue as well.

The other thing I found interesting, Mr. Chairman, is, throughout the course of all of our hearings, there wasn't a witness panel of people who had faced all of these parade of horribles we have heard about from ISPs.

There weren't any witnesses. They didn't bring anybody. I don't know if they are out there or not. They didn't bring anybody who has been affected by the edge providers, however, and that is another subject for our conversation going forward.

Mr. Chairman, I support the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. BRINDISI).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 11 OFFERED BY MS. SPANBERGER

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 11 printed in part A of House Report 116–37.

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end the following:

SEC. 4. GAO REPORT ON CHALLENGES TO ACCURATE MAPPING.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall—

(1) determine the accuracy and granularity of the maps produced by the Federal Communications Commission that depict wireline and wireless broadband Internet access service deployment in the United States; and

(2) submit to Congress a report that—

(A) identifies—

(i) any program of the Federal Communications Commission under a rule restored under section 2(b) that relies on such maps, including any funding program; and

(ii) any action of the Federal Communications Commission taken under a rule restored under section 2(b) that relies on such maps, including any assessment of competition in an industry; and

(B) provides recommendations for how the Federal Communications Commission can produce more accurate, reliable, and granular maps that depict wireline and wireless broadband Internet access service deployment in the United States.

(b) BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS SERVICE DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''broadband Internet access service'' has the meaning given such term in section 8.2 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 294, the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. SPANBERGER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Virginia.

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of my commonsense broadband mapping amendment to H.R. 1644, the Save the Internet Act of 2019.

The digital gap between our rural and urban communities is real, and I hear about it from the people I serve every day.

According to the FCC's 2018 Broadband Deployment Report, more than 30 percent of rural Americans lack access to high-speed fixed broadband, compared to only 2 percent of urban Americans. This disparity has long-term implications for the economic strength and security of our country.

In rural America, a lack of reliable broadband internet makes it harder for businesses to find customers and attract new employees. Without reliable broadband internet, communities across this country face challenges attracting new businesses and investment.

In rural America, farmers have a tougher time using the latest precision agriculture technology, and in places without reliable broadband internet, kids find it difficult to complete their homework assignments.

In our district in central Virginia, farmers and producers are disadvantaged because the lack of broadband makes doing business harder. In our district, constituents drive their kids to McDonald's or to neighboring counties so that they can complete their research projects for school. And what is happening in our district is happening nationwide.

Today, we are considering a critical piece of legislation to champion the idea of a free and open internet.

There is no question that rural broadband internet access should be a part of this conversation, as this bill would also include a provision to restore the FCC's authority to fund the expansion of broadband access across our rural communities. But right now, there are many questions surrounding the accuracy of the FCC's broadband internet maps, which detail which areas in the United States have high-speed internet coverage and which do not.

These maps have important implications for our rural communities, schools, and businesses. These maps are used to award funding and subsidies to expand broadband coverage to areas that don't have it, and, in many cases, these efforts have led to great success.

However, these maps have been found to be inaccurate, incomplete, or unreliable. Often a map will claim an entire area is covered by high-speed broadband when, in reality, only a small portion of that area has reliable coverage.

This trend should not be the status quo in our digital age because it leaves so many rural families underserved. Areas where the FCC's maps incorrectly say there is high-speed rural broadband connectivity are often ineligible for funding to expand broadband, and these inaccuracies greatly disadvantage our rural communities.

Erroneous information in these maps could be the difference between a senior citizen being able to access life-saving telemedicine services or not; it could be the difference between a farmer who can keep up with market fluctuations halfway across the world or not; and it could control the ability of a young, aspiring student to access online information, college applications, and research materials.

My amendment to the Save the Internet Act would address a lack of reliable broadband internet connectivity in our rural communities, and it would begin to fix the errors in our current broadband maps.

My amendment would require the Government Accountability Office to produce a full report that examines the accuracy and quality of the FCC's broadband mapping. This report would also identify what the FCC should do to produce more accurate, reliable, and high-quality maps.

Additionally, the GAO report required by my amendment would help identify the scope of the broadband mapping problem and actually suggest solutions. With this new information, the FCC would be better able to update its maps so that we can properly target our broadband expansion efforts to the rural towns, townships, and communities across our district.

Better maps of broadband coverage are a critical first step toward getting high-speed internet to every household, something we should aim to do in our globalized, digitally-focused economy. As we are having important discussions about protecting and expanding reliable access to the internet, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment to H.R. 1644.

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

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, although I don't think I am opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, I don't disagree with my colleague from Virginia that the maps showing broadband deployment in the United States can and must be improved. That is why, when Republicans held the majority for the Energy and Commerce Committee, we held numerous hearings on how to do that, how to improve broadband mapping at the FCC.

We also shared legislation with our Democratic—then minority—colleagues to bring in the expertise of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to aggregate granular data beyond the carrier data that the FCC uses for its maps.

Unfortunately, our colleagues on the other side of the aisle didn't want to work with us to improve mapping last Congress. I am more hopeful this time that we can engage—we are ready, willing, and able to do so—and that we can address this matter.

Mapping is clearly important—I think we all agree on that—and it is where we should focus our limited Federal money on broadband support. But rather than help spur broadband deployment and provide more granular data, the underlying legislation would make it more difficult on broadband providers to deploy broadband.

We just discussed how investment in broadband, especially for our small providers, suffered under title II. They came and testified to that.

But my reservation on this amendment, Mr. Chairman, has to do with the conflict that I see between the Wexton amendment, No. 5, and the Spanberger amendment, No. 11. I wonder if the gentlewoman from Virginia would care to comment about that, and I would be happy to yield. I didn't have a chance to talk with her. It may not be fair.

The issue here is the Wexton amendment, which we did not oppose, requires the Federal Communications Commission to submit to Congress, within 30 days, a plan for how the Commission will evaluate and address problems with the collection of form 477 data.

□ 1015

I believe those are the same data we are talking about with your amendment to have the GAO do this investigation and report to Congress as well.

The conflict I see is, on the one hand, we are telling the FCC to go do its work and report back in 30 days, but in your amendment, we are telling the GAO to go do its work and tell us eventually where the problems are. They can do that, but we have already told the FCC to report back its answers.

I am not going to oppose the amendment, but it seems like there is kind of a conflict here, potentially. Because we want to get it right, it seems like we would wait to have the FCC report back until the GAO had completed its work. Then we could work with the FCC to say, okay, now that we know what the GAO has found and informed us on, then, FCC, go and report back.

I might have structured this a little differently had we had time to work out some of that.

I am not going to oppose the gentlewoman's amendment. We have to get the data right. We have to get the mapping right.

When the stimulus came out in the Obama administration, I argued this very point in the committee. We were in the minority then, so of course, I lost. But they were spending money that was being set aside in the stimulus to build out broadband in America before they had the maps to figure out where people were underserved and unserved.

It seemed kind of backward then, and I think it was. We didn't get the maps until after the money was allocated. The time to do the audits and evaluations of how that money was spent, the money for that ran out before the build-out was finished, so we had to come back to look at that. Then we did find limited cases of fraud and abuse, not much, frankly, but enough. It is taxpayer dollars.

I won't oppose the gentlewoman's amendment. I think we can work out these things if this bill were to move forward, but the timing is the issue that I have some reservations on.

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

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Chair, may I inquire how much time I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Virginia has 1 minute remaining.

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Chair, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE).

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Chair, I would say to my friend, I think what we are trying to do in these two amendments is, we need the FCC to get on this as soon as possible, but we need the GAO to continue to look at this. But I understand what the gentleman is saying.

Look, we know these maps are wrong. I mean, nobody is arguing about that, and it is unacceptable. What the gentlewoman's amendment would do is ask the GAO to do a report to examine the current mapping processes for both wireless and wired line services.

They would also be asked to identify what FCC programs and actions rely on maps and to make recommendations on how the FCC could produce more reliable maps.

I think this is an important amendment. I support it, and I urge all my colleagues to support it also.

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I appreciate the gentlewoman's amendment and the gentleman's comments. We can figure out how to work this out, I think. But clearly, we have to fix the maps.

Even the industry has told me, at least—they admit the data, the way it is collected and everything else, is not an accurate representation. They would like our help in this as well.

Hopefully, we can move forward on an NTIA reauthorization as well. We marched through a number of agency reauthorizations and programmatic reauthorizations that hadn't been done in decades in the last 2 years. We should continue that important work as well. We stand ready as Republicans to join our colleagues to get that done.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. SPANBERGER).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 12 OFFERED BY MR. MCADAMS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 12 printed in part A of House Report 116–37.

Mr. MCADAMS. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end the following:

SEC. 4. LAWFUL CONTENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—As described in the Report and Order on Remand, Declaratory Ruling, and Order in the matter of protecting and promoting the open internet that was adopted by the Federal Communications Commission on February 26, 2015 (FCC 15–24)—

(1) nothing in this Act prohibits providers of broadband Internet access service from blocking content that is not lawful, such as child pornography or copyright-infringing materials; and

(2) nothing in this Act imposes any independent legal obligation on providers of broadband Internet access service to be the arbiter of what is lawful content.

(b) BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS SERVICE DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''broadband Internet access service'' has the meaning given such term in section 8.2 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 294, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MCADAMS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

Mr. MCADAMS. Mr. Chair, I rise today to offer an amendment to H.R. 1644, the Save the Internet Act.

As the father of four children, I worry about what my kids see on social media and online, and I know firsthand how important it is that illegal content doesn't pollute the internet.

My amendment would affirm that this bill preserves broadband internet

service providers' ability to block unlawful content, including disturbing and harmful materials like child pornography.

We are here today to vote on legislation to protect the internet as an engine of innovation and open communication free from undue restrictions, such as blocking legal content and services, throttling service, and paid prioritization of content. While the bill does not, as currently written, revoke service providers' ability to block illegal content, I believe the House can agree that we should nonetheless affirm our commitment to stopping unlawful behaviors, such as viewing child pornography and copyright infringement.

My amendment does not impose additional or onerous legal requirements on service providers to act as an arbiter of lawfulness but, rather, ensures providers can continue working with consumer watchdogs and law enforcement to keep our internet free from illegal content and to make it safe for our families.

Let me reiterate this amendment also does not grant ISPs any new rights to block content that is lawful or decide what is lawful on the internet. My amendment simply stands for the proposition that unlawful content is not protected by net neutrality rules.

It is one thing to say ISPs can block content subject to a valid court order and quite another to let ISPs make decisions about the lawfulness of content for themselves. This amendment strikes that balance.

We have bipartisan consensus on the tremendous value of the internet's contribution to our society's innovation and communication, and I also know that there is bipartisan concern about severe illegal misuses of the internet's power. I believe my amendment offers us an opportunity to confirm our support once again for a free internet with unfettered access to legal content and to our vehement opposition to child pornography.

Mr. Chair, I thank the members of the committee for their work on this legislation, and I urge a ''yes'' vote on my amendment.

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

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, even though I am not opposed to it.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Oregon is recognized.

There was no objection.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, I agree with my colleague across the aisle, Mr. MCADAMS, that ISPs should be able to block unlawful content, and I support his amendment.

In fact, even when the FCC imposed the heavy-handed title II regulations, it recognized in paragraph 113 of its order that the ban on blocking did not ''prevent or restrict a broadband provider from refusing to transmit unlawful material, such as child pornography or copyright-infringing materials.''

This was similar to the FCC's earlier nonblocking rule, which was also affirmed, that ISPs could block material that was unlawful.

It strikes me as interesting that you have to have this amendment to apparently clarify an ambiguity some must feel exists in the underlying bill, but we will support it if it is necessary to do that.

I firmly support net neutrality that allows Americans to enjoy the lawful content on the internet and applications of their choosing.

I would point out to my friend from Utah that the concerns about social media, and I share them, are not covered by this legislation. Those big platforms are completely exempt, as near as we can tell, so that is another area where I think we all share a common bond, that there is concern about what goes on in social media, things that aren't legal, things that are fake. I mean, you name it.

Under title II, the FCC could police internet content, as it currently does with content broadcasts over television or radio. I was a radio broadcaster for 21 years, owned and operated stations, and that concerns me a bit if we are going to get the FCC being the Nation's speech police. By making further rules on the ISPs, you might be able to end up there. That is a concern.

This is a really broad, open-ended authority that you all are giving to the Federal Communications Commission. That is because the FCC did not forebear from some content-specific provisions of title II, such as section 223. That would give the FCC authority to impose content-based restrictions if it found it to be ''just and reasonable.'' That goes well beyond just the legal content, I think.

I am not burdened with a law degree, but I have some really good lawyers that counsel me on these matters.

This is why we offered an amendment that would have put certain protections in place for consumers' freedom of speech online because that is also something we all swear to uphold, our First Amendment rights of religion and speech.

Rather than talk about how we can prevent the FCC from someday abusing the expansive authority that the majority is about to give it, we are here discussing something that has been universally agreed upon by all parties to this debate.

Mr. Chair, we appreciate the gentleman's perfecting amendment to this legislation. I intend to support it.

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

Mr. MCADAMS. Mr. Chair, how much time do I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman has 3 minutes remaining.

Mr. MCADAMS. Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE) for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I would ask the Congressman, my understanding of his amendment is that it simply restates what is already in the 2015 Open Internet Order, namely, that nothing in this bill would prohibit ISPs from blocking unlawful content and that nothing in this act adds any additional requirement or right for an ISP to decide what is lawful content?

Mr. MCADAMS. Mr. Chair, yes, that is correct. Nothing in this amendment grants any sort of new rights to an ISP. Rather, this amendment simply stands for the proposition that unlawful content is not protected by net neutrality rules. In other words, blocking unlawful content does not violate net neutrality.

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for clarifying that. I support the gentleman's amendment.

Since this is the last of the amendments to be offered, I wanted to take this time to thank my friend and the Republican side for a vigorous debate not only in our committee but here on the floor.

Mr. Chair, I would be remiss if I didn't thank our staffs, namely Alex Hoehn-Saric, Jerry Leverich, Jennifer Epperson, AJ Brown, Dan Miller, Kenneth Degraff, and my telecom staff, Philip Murphy. Without him, I wouldn't sound as intelligent as I do on these matters. I thank all of the Democratic staff. They worked very hard, and they deserve our thanks.

Mr. Chair, this has been a vigorous debate, as it should be, but we are coming to a close now, and I thank my friend for his participation.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for his comments, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I again thank the gentleman from Utah for bringing this amendment. I guess my suspicions were right: It is merely restating what is already in the 2015 order, which is what this bill basically reinstates into law.

Mr. Chair, I thank my staff as well for the great job they have done. I appreciate both sides as we work together on these complicated and sometimes controversial issues.

I would point out that, under sections 223 and 201, you are again opening the door to vast new regulation of speech and content, I believe and our attorneys believe, by giving the FCC this authority.

I am a First Amendment guy. I have a degree in journalism. I believe in free speech. Sometimes, I don't like that speech. Sometimes, I find it offensive. The stuff that is illegal, you bet, we are all together on. But there are some interesting stories coming out around Europe and elsewhere where countries now, especially some of those in the more authoritarian parts of the world, are using this argument to crack down on political speech they find offensive.

I think we have to be very careful as Republicans, as Democrats, as all

Americans to try to find that balance between the obvious and the speech that really is about protecting the powerful. I think we can find common ground on that, but I do wince a bit that we are opening the door, or you all are with your bill, to giving the FCC the power to tax the internet, the power to regulate speech on the internet by going through a rulemaking.

I think that heads us in a little more dangerous direction and, meanwhile, does not address some of the issues I hear in townhalls. I have done 20 of them in every county in my district this year. When people begin to step up and have issues, it is not the ISPs they are complaining about, other than speeds and connectivity, that sort of thing. It is what is happening on some of the social media platforms, which are not addressed by this bill.

Mr. Chairman, I support the gentleman's amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCADAMS. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MCADAMS).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Utah will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in part A of House Report 116–37 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 4 by Mr. DELGADO of New York.

Amendment No. 6 by Ms. WEXTON of Virginia.

Amendment No. 12 by Mr. MCADAMS of Utah.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

□ 1030

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. DELGADO

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. DELGADO) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 363, noes 60, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 163]

AYES—363

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allred
Armstrong
Arrington
Axne
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Barr
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady
Brindisi
Brooks (IN)
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Case
Casten (IL)
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Cheney
Chu, Judy
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Cloud
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comer
Connolly
Cook
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Cox (CA)
Craig
Crawford
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Cummings
Cunningham
Curtis
Davids (KS)
Davidson (OH)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny K.
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Duffy
Dunn
Engel
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Estes
Evans
Finkenauer
Fitzpatrick
Fletcher
Flores
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx (NC)
Frankel
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gianforte
Gibbs
Golden
Gomez
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez (TX)
González-Colón (PR)
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green (TX)
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guthrie
Haaland
Hagedorn
Harder (CA)
Hartzler
Hastings
Hayes
Heck
Herrera Beutler
Higgins (LA)
Higgins (NY)
Hill (AR)
Hill (CA)
Himes
Holding
Hollingsworth
Horn, Kendra S.
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Hurd (TX)
Jackson Lee
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (TX)
Joyce (OH)
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster (NH)
Kustoff (TN)
LaHood
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Mast
Matsui
McAdams
McBath
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McNerney
Meadows
Meeks
Meng
Miller
Mitchell
Moolenaar
Moore
Morelle
Moulton
Mucarsel-Powell
Mullin
Murphy
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newhouse
Norcross
Norton
Nunes
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Palazzo
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Phillips
Pingree
Plaskett
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Reed
Reschenthaler
Richmond
Riggleman
Roby
Rodgers (WA)
Roe, David P.
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose (NY)
Rose, John W.
Rouda
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Sablan
San Nicolas
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
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
Stevens
Stewart
Stivers
Suozzi
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Timmons
Tipton
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres Small (NM)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Upton
Van Drew
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Waltz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watkins
Watson Coleman
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yarmuth
Young

NOES—60

Allen
Amash
Banks
Bergman
Biggs
Bishop (UT)
Brooks (AL)
Buck
Budd
Burchett
Carter (GA)
Cline
Conaway
Crenshaw
Davis, Rodney
DesJarlais
Duncan
Emmer
Ferguson
Fleischmann
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gohmert
Gooden
Gosar
Graves (GA)
Guest
Harris
Hern, Kevin
Hice (GA)
Hunter
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (PA)
Kelly (MS)
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lesko
Marchant
Marshall
Massie
Meuser
Mooney (WV)
Norman
Palmer
Posey
Ratcliffe
Rice (SC)
Roy
Rutherford
Schweikert
Steube
Walker
Webster (FL)
Williams
Woodall
Wright
Yoho
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—14

Abraham
Amodei
Babin
Cicilline
Cooper
McEachin
Olson
Radewagen
Rice (NY)
Rooney (FL)
Ryan
Sánchez
Weber (TX)
Welch

□ 1055

Messrs. BROOKS of Alabama, FERGUSON, and RICE of South Carolina changed their vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

Messrs. WENSTRUP, WESTERMAN, SCALISE, WATKINS, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Messrs. KELLY of Pennsylvania, and BARR changed their vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MS. WEXTON

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. WEXTON) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 376, noes 46, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 164]

AYES—376

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Allred
Amash
Armstrong
Arrington
Axne
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady
Brindisi
Brooks (IN)
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Case
Casten (IL)
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cheney
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Cloud
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comer
Connolly
Cook
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Cox (CA)
Craig
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Cummings
Cunningham
Curtis
Davids (KS)
Davidson (OH)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny K.
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Duffy
Engel
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Ferguson
Finkenauer
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Flores
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx (NC)
Frankel
Fudge
Fulcher
Gabbard
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gianforte
Gibbs
Golden
Gomez
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez (TX)
González-Colón (PR)
Gooden
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green (TX)
Griffith
Grijalva
Guest
Guthrie
Haaland
Hagedorn
Harder (CA)
Hartzler
Hastings
Hayes
Heck
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)
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster (NH)
Kustoff (TN)
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamb
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marshall
Matsui
McAdams
McBath
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McGovern
McKinley
McNerney
Meadows
Meeks
Meng
Meuser
Miller
Mitchell
Moolenaar
Moore
Morelle
Moulton
Mucarsel-Powell
Mullin
Murphy
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newhouse
Norcross
Norton
Nunes
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Phillips
Pingree
Plaskett
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reschenthaler
Richmond
Riggleman
Roby
Rodgers (WA)
Roe, David P.
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose (NY)
Rose, John W.
Rouda
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Sablan
San Nicolas
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
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
Stevens
Stewart
Stivers
Suozzi
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Timmons
Tipton
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres Small (NM)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Upton
Van Drew
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Waltz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watkins
Watson Coleman
Wenstrup
Wexton
Wild
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Young
Zeldin

NOES—46

Banks
Barr
Biggs
Bishop (UT)
Brooks (AL)
Buck
Budd
Burchett
Chabot
Cline
Conaway
DesJarlais
Duncan
Dunn
Emmer
Estes
Gaetz
Gohmert
Gosar
Graves (GA)
Grothman
Harris
Hern, Kevin
Jordan
Kelly (MS)
Lamborn
Lesko
Long
Loudermilk
Massie
Mast
McHenry
Mooney (WV)
Norman
Posey
Rice (SC)
Roy
Rutherford
Schweikert
Steube
Walker
Webster (FL)
Westerman
Williams
Wright
Yoho

NOT VOTING—15

Abraham
Amodei
Babin
Cooper
Langevin
McEachin
Olson
Radewagen
Rice (NY)
Rooney (FL)
Ryan
Sánchez
Weber (TX)
Welch
Yarmuth

□ 1102

Mr. FERGUSON changed his vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chair, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 164.

AMENDMENT NO. 12 OFFERED BY MR. MCADAMS

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MCADAMS) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 423, noes 0, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 165]

AYES—423

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Allred
Amash
Armstrong
Arrington
Axne
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady
Brindisi
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Case
Casten (IL)
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Cheney
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Cline
Cloud
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comer
Conaway
Connolly
Cook
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Cox (CA)
Craig
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Cummings
Cunningham
Curtis
Davids (KS)
Davidson (OH)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny K.
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Duffy
Duncan
Dunn
Emmer
Engel
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Estes
Evans
Ferguson
Finkenauer
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Flores
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx (NC)
Frankel
Fudge
Fulcher
Gabbard
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gianforte
Gibbs
Gohmert
Golden
Gomez
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez (TX)
González-Colón (PR)
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
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
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marshall
Massie
Mast
Matsui
McAdams
McBath
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
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
Norton
Nunes

O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Phillips
Pingree
Plaskett
Pocan
Porter
Posey
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Riggleman
Roby
Rodgers (WA)
Roe, David P.
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose (NY)
Rose, John W.
Rouda
Rouzer
Roy
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Rutherford
Ryan
Sablan
San Nicolas
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
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stevens
Stewart
Stivers
Suozzi
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Timmons
Tipton
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres Small (NM)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Upton
Van Drew
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Waltz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watkins
Watson Coleman
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Wright
Yarmuth
Yoho
Young
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—14

Abraham
Amodei
Babin
Bishop (UT)
Hurd (TX)
McEachin
Olson
Radewagen
Rice (NY)
Rooney (FL)
Sánchez
Stanton
Weber (TX)
Welch

□ 1110

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The Acting CHAIR (Ms. ESCOBAR). The question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. NEGUSE) having assumed the chair, Ms. ESCOBAR, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1644) to restore the open internet order of the Federal Communications Commission, and, pursuant to House Resolution 294, she reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment to the amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole?

If not, the question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit and it is at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. WALDEN. Oh, my gosh, Mr. Speaker, in its current form, yes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Walden moves to recommit the bill H.R. 1644 to the Committee on Energy and Commerce with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

Add at the end the following:

SEC. 4. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING INTERNET TAX FREEDOM ACT.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to modify, impair, supersede, or authorize the modification, impairment, or supersession of the Internet Tax Freedom Act (47 U.S.C. 151 note).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Oregon is recognized for 5 minutes.

□ 1115

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, this amendment is actually pretty simple, and Members have a clear choice today on the floor: Are you for taxing the internet or not? That is the question.

As we have discussed at the Energy and Commerce Committee and again on the House floor today, Mr. Speaker, no one fully understands the implications of the underlying legislation. In fact, we have adopted amendments that the sponsor indicates aren't really necessary but do reinforce what is already in the bill. The scope of what it entails is still unclear, however, and the impact it could have on consumers is still uncertain.

Now, Democrats claim their bill permanently forbears from many of the heavy-handed regulations that the Federal Communications Commission could impose through this government takeover of the internet. It is important to note that nothing in the underlying bill would prevent the Federal Communications Commission from imposing similar regulations in the future or through other provisions in statute.

Now, my colleagues never could produce the list of 700 forbearances they claim the FCC engaged in that they are going to lock in statute today. That is what you are voting on, among other things. We never could get that list of 700 forbearances.

We have offered amendments in the committee and in the Rules Committee to ensure that consumers are protected and to ensure that the Democrats' rhetoric about their bill actually matches the substance. These amendments were all rejected on party-line votes in committee.

What is clear is that the Democrats want a government takeover of the internet. They want to open up the floodgates to a Federal, State, and local cash grab through taxation and fees that could be put on by local governments, State governments, and even the Federal Government.

Now, they will argue: Oh, no, there is nothing in the underlying bill, no, no, no. It does not touch the Internet Tax Freedom Act.

That might be true. It doesn't have to because the underlying bill opens the floodgates to section 201 and section 202 and other provisions that would allow local, State, and Federal governments to tax the internet. They can't do that today.

So, again, your vote is pretty simple: tax the internet or don't tax the internet.

Once you classify internet services under the utility-style services, tax administrators are going to do what they do best, and that is find a way to charge fees and taxes on this category since they understand how to get milk from every cow that walks by. Guess who is getting milked. It is the consumers.

So if you have any doubt, Mr. Speaker, just check your monthly phone bill. Your internet subscription is the new target. We are seeing all kinds of things in this bill. They are doubling, potentially, use of fees for the use of some facilities and poles, even altruistic-sounding ones on telecommunications relay services and 911.

But guess what. Just ask New York residents how much of their monthly 911 charges are being diverted from their 911 call centers. According to the Federal Communications Commission's 10th annual report to Congress on how States collect and use 911 fees, a staggering 90.35 percent of the money New Yorkers pay for 911 services gets diverted. For my friends in New Jersey, 77.26 percent gets diverted.

So these tax collectors know how to tax; they just haven't had the opportunity to tax the internet, but they may well get it under this bill if it were to become law.

So, Mr. Speaker, this is pretty simple. Republicans want to close the door on taxation of the internet. Will Democrats join us or not?

If you vote for the motion to recommit, Mr. Speaker, you vote to close the tax and freedom door. A ''no'' vote leaves that door wide open for taxation of the internet.

Do you want your consumers to pay higher bills every month for their internet service or not?

Say ''no'' to higher taxes and fees and ''yes'' to this amendment to protect those who actually pay the bill.

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

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, colleagues, pay close attention this. This proposal is completely unnecessary. Let me tell you why.

The bill simply restores the 2015 Open Internet Order that the FCC adopted and was upheld by the courts. Nothing in that order could or did give the FCC the authority to modify, impair, or supersede Federal law. To the contrary, the order said specifically that it did not impose new taxes or impact the Internet Tax Freedom Act.

The Internet Tax Freedom Act is Federal law. Nothing in this order allows the FCC to modify, impair, or supersede Federal law.

This is a complete nonissue, nothing you need to be worried about; and, frankly, it is just a last-ditch effort to delay and confuse people on net neutrality.

Now, let's get down to what this bill really does. What this bill does, basically, is three things:

First, the three we all agree on: no blocking, no throttling, and no paid prioritization. Republicans and Democrats say we all agree with that.

But, colleagues, that is not the end of the ball game, because we have already seen discriminatory practices by ISPs that aren't covered by blocking, throttling, and paid prioritization.

What my friends over here are saying is, sure, the three things we caught them red-handed on that they have already pled guilty to, we are not going to allow that anymore, but any new discriminatory behavior, any new unjust or unreasonable behavior, we don't want a cop on the beat to police that. We don't want to be able to give consumers the right to go to the FCC and get relief from that. It is like locking the front door and leaving the backdoor wide open.

Now, let's talk about another thing, too.

Two years ago, the Trump FCC repealed the Open Internet Order. What did it replace it with? Nothing. Nada. Zip. Crickets. They did nothing. It is the Wild, Wild West. Let the ISPs do anything they want and consumers be damned. That is what they did.

For 2 years, they could have brought their so-called version of light-touch net neutrality to the body. They controlled the House. They controlled the Senate. They got a Republican President. They did nothing because they don't believe in net neutrality, and they don't believe in protecting consumers.

Well, I have got news for my friends on this side of the aisle: You are not in charge here anymore. This is a new day. We didn't come to Washington, D.C., to represent companies. We came here to represent the American people.

May I tell my colleagues, whether they are Republicans, Democrats, or Independents, 86 percent of the American people say they want these rules restored.

Colleagues, this is your first and only chance to tell the American people where you stand on net neutrality and whether you believe that the FCC should protect consumers. This is your chance to be on the right side of history, on the side of the angels, and on the side of the American people.

Let's defeat this motion to recommit and pass this bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of passage.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 204, noes 216, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 166]

AYES—204

Aderholt
Allen
Amash
Armstrong
Arrington
Axne
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bergman
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Bost
Brady
Brindisi
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comer
Conaway
Cook
Craig
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cunningham
Curtis
Davidson (OH)
Davis, Rodney
Delgado
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan
Dunn
Emmer
Estes
Ferguson
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flores
Fortenberry
Foxx (NC)
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gianforte
Gibbs
Gohmert
Golden
Gonzalez (OH)
Gooden
Gosar
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harris
Hartzler
Hern, Kevin
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Hill (AR)
Holding
Hollingsworth
Horn, Kendra S.
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Katko
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger
Kustoff (TN)
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
Lesko
Long
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Marchant
Marshall
Massie
Mast
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
Meadows
Meuser
Miller
Mitchell
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Newhouse
Norman
Nunes
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Posey
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (SC)
Riggleman
Roby
Rodgers (WA)
Roe, David P.
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose, John W.
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Scalise
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Sherrill
Shimkus
Simpson
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spanberger
Spano
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Stivers
Taylor
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Timmons
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Van Drew
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Waltz
Watkins
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Wright
Yoho
Young
Zeldin

NOES—216

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Case
Casten (IL)
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Cox (CA)
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Cummings
Davids (KS)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny K.
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Engel
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Finkenauer
Fletcher
Foster
Frankel
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Gomez
Gonzalez (TX)
Green (TX)
Grijalva
Haaland
Harder (CA)
Hastings
Hayes
Heck
Higgins (NY)
Hill (CA)
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Jackson Lee
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster (NH)
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Luján
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McAdams
McBath
McCollum
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Morelle
Moulton
Mucarsel-Powell
Murphy
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Norcross
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Richmond
Rose (NY)
Rouda
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shalala
Sherman
Sires
Smith (WA)
Soto
Speier
Stanton
Stevens
Suozzi
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres Small (NM)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Wexton
Wild
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—11

Abraham
Amodei
Babin
Huffman
McEachin
Olson
Rice (NY)
Rooney (FL)
Sánchez
Weber (TX)
Welch

□ 1130

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 232, nays 190, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 167]

YEAS—232

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Axne
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brindisi
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butterfield
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Cartwright
Case
Casten (IL)
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Cox (CA)
Craig
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Cummings
Cunningham
Davids (KS)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny K.
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Engel
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Finkenauer
Fletcher
Foster
Frankel
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Golden
Gomez
Gonzalez (TX)
Gottheimer
Green (TX)
Grijalva
Haaland
Harder (CA)
Hastings
Hayes
Heck
Higgins (NY)
Hill (CA)
Himes
Horn, Kendra S.
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kennedy
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim
Kind
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster (NH)
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Lowey
Luján
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney, Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McAdams
McBath
McCollum
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Moore
Morelle
Moulton
Mucarsel-Powell
Murphy
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Norcross
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Peterson
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Posey
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Richmond
Rose (NY)
Rouda
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shalala
Sherman
Sherrill
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Soto
Spanberger
Speier
Stanton
Stevens
Suozzi
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres Small (NM)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Van Drew
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Wexton
Wild
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NAYS—190

Aderholt
Allen
Amash
Armstrong
Arrington
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bergman
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Bost
Brady
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comer
Conaway
Cook
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
Davidson (OH)
Davis, Rodney
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan
Dunn
Emmer
Estes
Ferguson
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flores
Fortenberry
Foxx (NC)
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gianforte
Gibbs
Gohmert
Gonzalez (OH)
Gooden
Gosar
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harris
Hartzler
Hern, Kevin
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Hill (AR)
Holding
Hollingsworth
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Katko
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kinzinger
Kustoff (TN)
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
Lesko
Long
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Marchant
Marshall
Massie
Mast
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
Meadows
Meuser
Miller
Mitchell
Moolenaar
Mooney (WV)
Mullin
Newhouse
Norman
Nunes
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (SC)
Riggleman
Roby
Rodgers (WA)
Roe, David P.
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose, John W.
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sensenbrenner
Shimkus
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spano
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Stivers
Taylor
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Timmons
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walorski
Waltz
Watkins
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Wright
Yoho
Young
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—10

Abraham
Amodei
Babin
McEachin
Olson
Rice (NY)
Rooney (FL)
Sánchez
Weber (TX)
Welch

□ 1144

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Miss RICE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I regrettably missed the following vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 167.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, due to a family emergency, I was unable to vote on Roll Call 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, and 167. I would include in the RECORD how I would have voted on each had I been present.

rollcall 157: "Aye", rollcall 158: "Aye", rollcall 159: "Aye", rollcall 160: "Aye", rollcall 161: "Aye", rollcall 162: "Aye", rollcall 163: "Aye", rollcall 164: "Aye", rollcall 165: "Aye", rollcall 166: "Nay", and rollcall 167: "Aye".

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Brian Pate, one of his secretaries.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, 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. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I urge the Speaker to immediately schedule this important bill to save the lives of these babies who are born alive after an abortion attempt. This bill is exceedingly important and should be brought to the floor.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is not recognized for debate.

ADJOURNMENT FROM WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2019, TO FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2019

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 2:30 p.m. on Friday, April 12, 2019.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ESPAILLAT). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S ATTACKS ON THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn the Trump administration's new attacks on the Affordable Care Act.

Over 4.5 million non-elderly Texans have preexisting conditions that could keep them from getting insurance if the administration gets its wishes in Federal court. This is truly outrageous.

No family should have to choose between lifesaving care and going bankrupt. And we cannot forget how important this is for Latinos, there are many in my district, who already have the highest uninsured rate of any group in the United States.

Regardless of the language you speak, or the color of your skin, healthcare is a right, and we will defend it for everyone.

The well-being of our families and their health is the top priority of House Democrats, and I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, we will do everything in our power to make sure this administration does not strip away the access to healthcare for our loved ones.

Yes, we can, and we will.

100 DAYS OF DISARRAY

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

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, Friday is the 100th day of Democrat control of the House; 100 days of disarray.

In the first 3 months, 97 bills have passed the House. In the first quarter of last session, 132 bills had passed.

There are 97 bills that have passed the House, which is far more than have cleared committees; that number is only 68. So much for regular order; so much for hearings; so much for amendments.

They have passed far fewer bipartisan bills, it is no surprise, yet they continue to take up and pass resolutions that are literally useless. We have spent 20 percent of our time on nonmeaningful, nonbinding resolutions.

Instead of working on the items we promised the American people, like fixing our infrastructure, healthcare, and workforce issues, let me recap some of the things that have been accomplished here:

The House failed to speak out strongly against anti-Semitism.

Democrats have failed to produce a budget and said they won't. They can't even agree on budget caps.

They have ignored the humanitarian crisis at the border that continues to grow.

And they refuse to bring to the floor the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, which has 198 supporters.

RESTORING NET NEUTRALITY

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

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1664, the Save the Internet Act, which just passed the House this morning. This important bill would restore net neutrality by reinstating FCC regulations that were repealed under the Trump administration.

Now, let me be clear. Net neutrality protects America's access to open, free, and fair internet. It also prevents internet companies from blocking websites or slowing down their load time simply because they disagree with what the website says.

Your ZIP Code, income, or geography should not determine the quality of access to the internet that every American should have. That is why this legislation is so important. It empowers the FCC to stop abusive corporate practices online, promotes competition and innovation, and supports broadband access and adoption for low-income communities.

Mr. Speaker, we need net neutrality because consumers, not service providers, should control what you can access online. So it is time to give power back to the people once and for all.

I am pleased that the House passed H.R. 1644 today, and I hope that the Senate will take up this bill immediately.

RECOGNIZING AMERICANS WHO GIVE BACK TO THEIR COMMUNITIES

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, during National Volunteer Week, to acknowledge the many Americans who generously give their time and talents to help improve the lives of others.

Since the founding of the United States, Americans have always been committed to serving others and working for the common good. During National Volunteer Week, we celebrate that spirit and generosity that inspires Americans to make our communities safer, healthier, and stronger.

Mr. Speaker, right here in the House, I am proud to be working with Congressman JIM PANETTA creating a caucus to empower and promote the goals of national service organizations. Soon, we will launch the National Service Organization Caucus, which will support the many organizations that are dedicated to giving back to their communities. I encourage my colleagues to join this important caucus.

The gift of time is priceless. Every day Americans are helping students, caring for seniors, working to support our veterans, aiding those impacted by natural disasters, and so much more. There is always an opportunity to volunteer, and I am grateful that so many Americans make it a part of their daily lives.

CONGRESS IS TACKLING MANY OF AMERICA'S CENTRAL CHALLENGES

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

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, over the last 100 days, this Congress has tackled many of America's central challenges. That starts, of course, with cleaning up our election system itself, and our vote on H.R. 1 is a giant step in the right direction.

We have also tackled America's gun violence epidemic by requiring universal background checks and closing the Charleston loophole.

We have passed H.R. 7, to ensure that equal work means equal pay; and we have passed the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act, expanding protections for young victims, survivors, those in shelters, and LGBTQ people as well. On all of these, we await the Senate's vote.

Now we are advancing more of the public's priorities: H.R. 4, to restore and protect America's voting rights; H.R. 5, to protect LGBTQ Americans' rights; and H.R. 6, to defend Dreamers and TPS recipients.

In addition, we are holding hearings on climate change, infrastructure, and lowering prescription drug costs.

Finally, we are fulfilling our obligation of oversight, defending our constitutional and democratic norms.

Since January, we have worked to stand up for our fellow citizens and build a more decent, humane, and caring society.

PROTECTING UNITED STATES BUSINESSES ABROAD

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

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Protecting United States Businesses Abroad Act. This legislation will provide critical protection against corruption by authorizing the President, through the advice of Congress or the State Department, to revoke the visas of those engaging in corruption targeting Americans doing business in emerging markets around the world. This includes, soliciting bribes, extorting payments or assets, manipulating law enforcement, and more.

Many businesses, and especially small businesses, do not have the resources to combat this type of corruption overseas. This bill will provide a critical tool for small businesses to invest safely, benefiting our economy and developing markets around the world.

I would like to give special thanks to Ranking Member MCCAUL of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce, and Rendeavour, a company that has been directly impacted by this type of corruption overseas.

HONORING THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE RECENT AFGHANISTAN ATTACK

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I am reminded of the creation of the Homeland Security Committee and the Department of Homeland Security. It was in the aftermath of the heinous acts of 9/11, of which I was a Member of the United States Congress, and the description and actions are seared in my memory.

We organized the Homeland Security Department to be the front lines of security, to recognize, and to determine what would be the best way to function.

I will be introducing legislation about the security of the Homeland Security Department. The precipitous firings and resignations are putting this Nation in jeopardy and putting the men and women on the front lines for the work that they are doing, it is undermining that very important work.

So today I rise as a cofounder and cochair of the Afghanistan Caucus, to ask my colleagues to salute those who just lost their lives in battle in Afghanistan, soldiers from across the Nation. Their families are mourning, and we owe them a recognition that they wear the uniform and they are able or willing to sacrifice for us.

I would ask my colleagues to take a moment of silence for those who died in the recent IED incident in Afghanistan. I ask now for a moment of silence for those soldiers who have fallen in battle.

HONORING THE PASSING OF THE LAST WORLD WAR II DOOLITTLE RAIDER

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, when I was reading the Cincinnati Enquirer online this morning, an article headline grabbed my attention: ''Last WW II Doolittle Raider dies.'' Lieutenant Colonel Dick Cole was 103 when he passed away Tuesday in Texas.

There were 80 Raiders, and the fifth last to survive was Tom Griffin, from my Cincinnati, Ohio, district, who was 96 when he died a couple of years ago. I had the honor of getting to know Tom well over the years. He was a wonderful guy, and, yes, he was a hero.

That is a term that gets used quite frequently nowadays; but Tom Griffin, and Dick Cole, and the other 78 brave Americans who took off that night from the USS *Hornet* truly were heroes.

Only months after the devastating attack on Pearl Harbor, their daring feat gave America a much-needed shot in the arm that was a first and major step in winning that war.

Now these 80 courageous, gallant, patriotic Doolittle Raiders are all gone, but they will never be forgotten.

□ 1200

NATIONAL DAY OF SILENCE

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

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Day of Silence that is going to happen this Friday, April 12. That is a day when people around the country and in my community on the central coast of California take a vow of silence to raise awareness about the issues faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer students.

One of those students will be Oliver Cantrell, who lives in Santa Cruz and is transgender and bisexual. As president of the queer-straight alliance at Harbor High, Oliver works to build bridges between students and school staff through education and outreach.

When Oliver transferred to Harbor High, he was met with support. However, we know there are students at other schools who may not be so lucky. That is exactly why Oliver is taking a vow of silence to highlight the struggle for acceptance by LGBTQ youth.

Many students will take that vow of silence this Friday. That is why we as leaders should continue to speak up and step up every day to ensure that all Americans are respected and appreciated for who they are.

HONORING CARL LAMM

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

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, after 72 years on the air, Carl Lamm, whom many know as the voice of Johnston County, retired as America's longest continuous radio broadcaster on Friday, March 29.

Mr. Carl, as many of us affectionately call him, has been co-owner and operator of WTSB-AM radio in Smithfield, North Carolina, since 1958. His daily programming was revered by millions throughout the State, Nation, and world who listened to him on the radio and online throughout the course of his career.

In more than seven decades on air, he brought some of the greatest musicians, top athletes, professionals of all stripes, and national political figures and commentators into the homes and businesses of his listeners to discuss current events and politics, to preach the Word of God, and much more.

He has witnessed the evolution of radio from the glory days of the Grand Ole Opry to the digital age of the 21st century.

Mr. Carl's many notable recognitions include North Carolina's highest civilian honor, The Order of the Long Leaf Pine, as well as membership in the North Carolina Broadcasters Hall of Fame. However, what I admire most is his loyal faith in our creator.

Suffice it to say, we will all miss listening to Mr. Carl on the air at WTSB radio. It is not often that you get to know a legend in their own time. Mr. Carl is just that and a very dear friend to many as well.

As he enters this new chapter of life known as retirement, may God always continue to bless his path.

HONORING MAYOR RAYMOND BAGSHAW

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

Mrs. DEMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mayor Raymond Bagshaw, who passed away March 10.

Mayor Bagshaw's service to our community and to helping small businesses was unwavering. As the mayor of the city of Edgewood, he brought what was called boundless ingenuity to his city where he started numerous projects, including transforming a vacant, desolate lot into a beautiful park. Today, the park, which bears his name, hosts numerous events and family-filled activities.

A true public servant, Mayor Bagshaw was never afraid to roll up his sleeves and work in the trenches. During natural disasters, it was natural for him to pitch in to clean up debris or direct traffic around downed power lines.

Mr. Speaker, I join Mayor Bagshaw's family, the city council, and citizens of Edgewood in celebrating his life and legacy and thanking him for a job well done.

CONGRESS' SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL

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

Mr. SPANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the nation of Israel for holding its national elections yesterday.

As the sole democracy in the Middle East, it not only sets an example to its neighbors, but it is a key ally in spreading peace, democracy, and prosperity throughout the world.

I also want to recognize the thousands of people who traveled to Washington recently for this year's AIPAC conference.

It has been an honor to work with so many of my colleagues on legislation that will not only help secure Israel militarily but also allow it to thrive economically. Countries in the region should take note of what is possible when they work in good faith and, most importantly, seek peace.

As NATO's Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said in this Chamber last week, it is good to have friends. I am honored to count Israel as one of our closest and greatest friends.

I look forward to working with a united Congress to support the Jewish state and to spread democracy wherever tyranny exists.

HONORING NIPSEY HUSSLE

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

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the floor of the House of Representatives to formally recognize and honor the legacy of Ermias Asghedom, known to his community and the neighborhoods of south Los Angeles and beyond as Nipsey Hussle.

As noted in the record I will be submitting shortly, Nipsey Hussle used the platform he created with his music to lift our community as he climbed.

In his business ventures, his investments, his philanthropy, his community engagement, every step of the way, he had a sole purpose of bettering the community he came from.

A humble visionary, he saw the overlooked and welcomed the dismissed. He reminded our community that the power we hold is the power of where we come from and that awareness of that power can never be taken from us.

He will be remembered by south Los Angeles as a protector, an inspirator, a father, a brother, and an unabashed son of south Los Angeles.

For all he was given, he gave back. And for that legacy, south Los Angeles has been changed forever.

Mr. Speaker, I will now be submitting this record honoring his legacy.

CONFIRM DAVID BERNHARDT

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

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of David Bernhardt's nomination to be the next Secretary of the Interior.

Members of the Western Caucus strongly support his nomination.

David Bernhardt loves his country and has served her well as a model public servant for over 15 years. David has already been confirmed twice by the U.S. Senate, once to be the solicitor and the top legal mind of the country on these issues and the second time to be the Deputy Secretary. Just last week, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee advanced his nomination by a strong bipartisan vote of 14–6.

During his tenure with DOI, David has worked diligently to increase hunting and fishing access, ensure clean water for future generations, and empower local decisionmaking. David is a champion for sportsmen and rural communities.

Mr. Bernhardt is the most qualified candidate we have ever had as the Secretary of the Interior. Simply put, David Bernhardt is the leader the Department and the American people deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the Senate to vote tomorrow based on David's credentials, leadership, and principles. If that occurs, I have no doubt he will be confirmed with a strong bipartisan vote.

Confirm Bernhardt.

CELEBRATING FIRST-EVER IMAGE OF BLACK HOLE

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

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the groundbreaking contributions of the James Clerk Maxwell Telescope and Submillimeter Array, located on the 13,803-foot summit of Mauna Kea on my home island in Hawaii, and to celebrate their contributions to a truly international effort producing the first-ever image of a black hole.

Part of the Event Horizon Telescope Collaboration, the JCMT and SMA joined six other telescopes around the globe to form an Earth-sized telescope of unprecedented power and resolution able to photograph the supermassive black hole in the M87 galaxy. Hawaii's key contribution was to place world-class telescopes in the middle of the Pacific Ocean.

Astronomers partnered with renowned Hawaiian language and cultural practitioner Dr. Larry Kimura to suggest the Hawaiian name ''Powehi,'' meaning embellished dark source of unending creation.

These Hawaii observatories pioneered the study of black holes, and thanks to powerful new capabilities, perfect conditions atop Mauna Kea, and dedicated personnel, we can all look forward to more of JCMT and SMA's cutting-edge discoveries in the future, in addition to the continued growth and reputation of Hawaii as a world leader in exploring our heavens.

RECOGNIZING THE VOGELPOHL FAMILY, ARKANSAS FOREST STEWARDS

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

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of Ray and Theresa Vogelpohl, who were recently named 2018 Arkansas Forest Stewards of the Year by the Arkansas Agriculture Department's Forestry Commission.

The Forestry Stewardship Program recognizes and rewards landowners who are managing privately owned forest land for multiple uses. Arkansas is home to more than 1,200 certified forest stewardship landowners. The Vogelpohls first enrolled in the Forest Stewardship Program in 1996 and later became certified as forest stewards in 2016.

They operate the Diamond TR Ranch, a 350-acre working ranch on the Perry-Pulaski county line. Their forest management efforts include prescribed burns, tree plantings along the Maumelle River, forest thinning, and planting of native grasses.

Ray and Theresa's dedication to forestry and environmental conservation has safeguarded Arkansas forestland for generations to come.

I join all Arkansans in congratulating them.

SUPPORTING UNITED STATES-REPUBLIC OF KOREA ALLIANCE

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

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 301, which expresses the importance of our country's alliance with the Republic of Korea.

A hundred years ago, the Republic of Korea declared itself sovereign, formed a provisional government, and set the wheels in motion for it to become the vibrant, prosperous, and free society that it is today.

The United States and South Korea have developed a special bond formed in shared strategic interests and cemented by a commitment to democratic values. Our alliance is central to advancing democracy, free markets, human rights, and the rule of law in the Asia-Pacific region and throughout the world.

South Korea is now home to around 30,000 American military personnel who are sworn by our mutual defense treaty to help our ally defend herself from external aggression. South Korea is also one of our largest trading partners.

Trade and security are not the only cornerstones of our relationship. Nearly 2 million Korean Americans live across our country, enriching all aspects of the fabric of our society.

Mr. Speaker, I call on my colleagues to continue to strengthen the diplomatic, economic, and security ties between the U.S. and our vital ally, South Korea.

CONFIRM DAVID BERNHARDT

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

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong support for the nomination of Mr. David Bernhardt as the next Secretary of the Interior.

Mr. Bernhardt is uniquely prepared to ascend to this position after a career spent leading several of the Department's wings as chief of staff to the Secretary, as director of congressional and legislative affairs, and as a Senate-confirmed solicitor under President Bush. These positions encompass the policy, managerial, intergovernmental, and oversight roles any sitting Secretary needs to master.

He is ready to hit the ground running as one of the most knowledgeable and upstanding Secretaries in the Department's history.

As a Colorado native, Mr. Bernhardt has repeatedly demonstrated a capacity to translate his vast knowledge of water, public lands, and other Western resources into policies that work in our home State and throughout the West. He understands our issues, and I know

he will continue to fight for what is best for Colorado and the whole country.

EQUALITY FOR RESIDENTS OF NATION'S CAPITAL

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, D.C. makes a big deal of Emancipation Day. That is the day that Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves in the Nation's Capital 9 months before the Emancipation Proclamation freed the rest.

You will forgive us if we say that it is hardly enough that more than 150 years later, the residents of your Nation's Capital, White and Black, are number one in Federal taxes paid to support this Republic but have no final vote, like the vote just cast in this House on the House floor, and no Senators whatsoever.

Emancipation Day will mark the day when we will celebrate H.R. 51 to make the District of Columbia the 51st State.

Lincoln freed the slaves in the District of Columbia. Congress must pass H.R. 51 to make freedom mean equality for the residents of your Nation's Capital with all other Americans.

□ 1215

HONORING BAYLOR UNIVERSITY LADY BEARS BASKETBALL TEAM

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

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Coach Kim Mulkey and her Baylor University Lady Bears for winning the 2019 NCAA Women's National Basketball Championship, their third national championship in 14 years.

''Together to Tampa'' was the adopted slogan for the team, and that is exactly what they did: they played together as a team to get to Tampa and they won together as a team in Tampa.

The Lady Bears played an incredible season, ending with an overall record of 37 and 1, and a 29-game winning streak.

It was also a monumental season for Coach Mulkey, who eclipsed the 550 career wins mark and is now only the third women's basketball coach to win at least three national championships.

Congratulations to Coach Mulkey, the Lady Bears Basketball Team, Baylor University, and all of Baylor Nation on another national championship.

Sic 'em, Bears.

HONORING WAYNE LLOYD VAN RIPER

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

Mr. FULCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Wayne Lloyd Van Riper to this great country.

Wayne Van Riper is a veteran of World War II and is celebrating his 95th birthday on April 16. During his service in the U.S. Army from 1943 to 1945, his efforts were instrumental in providing support to the 293rd Combat Engineer Battalion, A Company.

Wayne was born in the State of Washington in 1924. After enlisting after high school, Wayne served in George S. Patton's Third Army. Entering Active Duty in 1943, Wayne served valiantly in England, France, Germany, and was on his way to Japan, but Japan surrendered before he arrived there in 1945.

After the war, Wayne attended Oregon State University, and purchased a pear and apple orchard in Oregon. There he met the love of his life, Wanda Johnson, and married her in August of 1948. They have a daughter, Teresa Rae Lash, and a son, Kevin Wayne Van Riper. Later he retired and moved to McCall, Idaho.

On behalf of the people of Idaho and America, I thank Wayne for his military service and wish him all the best on his 95th birthday.

SUPPORT DAVID BERNHARDT AS SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, the Obama administration's notoriously rocky relationship with Congress, and even his own party, meant that he had to resort to overregulations to get stuff done. His pen and a phone approach resulted in considerable executive branch overreach.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support a nominee for Secretary of the Interior who is the exact opposite. David Bernhardt is a lawyer who understands exactly what powers and authorities his department is granted under the law and will never overstep those authorities.

During the shutdown, for example, he expertly used the authorities under FLREA—whatever those initials represent—to keep many of America's parks open, even as other agencies were closed for business. It is this kind of thinking—putting Americans and those who visit public lands first during tough times—that makes David a talented public servant. He will be an incredible Secretary of the Interior, and I urge the Senate to speedily confirm him.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO SOMALIA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 116–27)

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

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days before the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13536 of April 12, 2010, with respect to Somalia is to continue in effect beyond April 12, 2019.

The United States is strongly committed to Somalia's stabilization, and it is important to maintain sanctions against persons undermining its stability. The situation with respect to Somalia continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13536 with respect to Somalia.

DONALD J. TRUMP.
THE WHITE HOUSE, *April 10, 2019*.

NET NEUTRALITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HOLDING).

CONGRATULATING STEVEN KANDARIAN

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Steven Kandarian on his retirement from MetLife after serving as chairman of the board, president, and chief executive officer for the last 8 years.

After Steve Kandarian earned his undergraduate degree from Clark University, his JD from Georgetown University, and his MBA from Harvard Business School, he began his career as an investment banker before founding and serving as managing partner of Orion Partners, a private equity firm based in Boston.

Mr. Speaker, between 2001 and 2004, Mr. Kandarian was executive director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, the PBGC. During his time at the PBGC, he made the case for comprehensive reform of the pension funding rules to put the defined benefit system and the PBGC on a sound financial footing. His efforts helped lay the

groundwork for the enactment of the Pension Protection Act of 2006.

In 2005, Kandarian joined MetLife as executive vice president and chief investment officer. And from 2007 to 2012, he led MetLife's enterprise-wide strategy.

Under Mr. Kandarian's leadership during this time, MetLife identified the housing bubble early and reduced its exposure to the 2008 financial crisis. His efforts helped MetLife emerge from the credit crisis with the financial strength to complete the company's $16.4 billion purchase of Alico from AIG. This cemented the company's position as a leading U.S.-based global life insurer.

When Mr. Kandarian became President and CEO of MetLife in 2011, and later chairman of the board of directors in 2012, his leadership saw the company expand into North Carolina, my home State. And, in fact, MetLife expanded and became a leading company in my part of North Carolina because of Mr. Kandarian's efforts. With its growing presence in Cary, North Carolina, MetLife now employs many of my constituents at their Global Technology and Operations hub. In fact, over 2,000 North Carolinians go to work every day in MetLife in Cary, North Carolina.

And MetLife also has had a long history of giving back to the community in North Carolina. Since they began hiring in Cary in 2013, employees have contributed thousands of volunteer hours to local service projects like Habitat for Humanity. And the MetLife Foundation has made grants exceeding $2 million to support a number of community programs, like those that serve disabled veterans, as well as serving emerging innovations with local technology engineers. None of that would have been possible without Steve Kandarian's leadership at MetLife.

Mr. Kandarian has also been a leader in the policy realm, championing tax reform that resisted the status quo and in pursuing financial services regulation that targeted risky activities rather than entities. His successful challenge of MetLife's designation as a systemically important financial institution was emblematic of the worthwhile quest to find the right regulatory balance, not regulation at any cost.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mr. Kandarian on his long and successful career, and I wish him and his family well in his retirement from MetLife.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my friend from North Carolina's words.

Today, we voted on a bill referred to as net neutrality. It is a position that was taken up by the Federal Communications Commission back during the Obama administration. It was quite interesting. During the Obama administration, President Obama had said he would not allow the FCC to take over control of the internet, and then apparently was convinced otherwise and eventually made clear to the FCC they would take over control of the internet.

I know the bill is referred to as net neutrality, but it is anything but neutral. It is government control of the internet. And, yes, I realize that the internet has produced some billionaires who are tremendous contributors to the Democratic Party, but, to me and to my colleagues on the Republican side of the aisle, it is more an issue of independence of this incredible invention of the internet. If it creates more billionaires that happen to become Democrats, so be it. But let's leave the internet free.

Net neutrality does not leave it free. It is government controlled. And that is what the new chairman, Chairman Pai, undid. He said: We are backing off. This is an executive position taken by the executive branch during the Obama administration and we are now, as an executive branch, taking our hands off of the internet so that people are free to become billionaires, but we are not going to pick and choose winners, which means the government chooses losers, as well.

There was a good article by James Gattuso on March 11, 2019. He said:

''Just over 1 year ago, the Federal Communications Commission voted 3–2 to repeal the network neutrality rules it adopted in 2015.''

That is such a misnomer, net neutrality.

''However, the FCC regulation could make a comeback if House Democrats have their way.

''Lawmakers in the House and Senate introduced legislation Thursday to restore the rule.''

That is from last week.

''Sponsored by Senator Ed Markey, a Democrat from Massachusetts, and Representative Mike Doyle, a Democrat from Pennsylvania, the 3-page bill makes no attempt to modify or improve the 2015 rule. It simply declares that the 2017 order repealing net neutrality 'shall have no force or effect.'

''Formally titled the 'Open Internet Order,' the FCC imposed the rule 4 years ago under its Democratic chairman, Tom Wheeler. But the political battle over net neutrality has gone on close to 17 years.

''A Columbia University law professor, Tim Wu, coined the term 'net neutrality' in 2002. Wu argued that because internet service providers such as Comcast and AT&T enjoy near-bottleneck control over the traffic going to web users, they should be prohibited from favoring any web content over another.

''In other words, according to Wu, internet service providers should be required to treat content providers neutrally.

''But regulation can make problems of its own. Today's market for internet access is not perfectly competitive, but it is also clearly not a monopoly. Most Americans have the ability to choose from at least two service providers.''

And this gets critical here. It says:

''In addition, net neutrality would do nothing to increase the number of companies that compete in the market for access. In fact, it could make it harder for new entrants to compete effectively with existing market leaders.

''That's because one of the best ways to get a foothold in a market is to differentiate your service.''

It is called competition. This goes on to say:

''For instance, T-Mobile to differentiate itself in its struggle to compete with industry leaders AT&T and Verizon, pioneered 'zero rating' pricing plans that allow free access to content from participating content providers without incurring a charge against your data cap.''

□ 1230

''T-Mobile's free-data option has made wireless broadband available to millions at affordable rates. Zero-rating, nevertheless, has been condemned by many as a violation of net neutrality and could be banned, should Congress restore the rule.''

Now, that is what is so amazing about this term, ''net neutrality.'' It means the government could, and probably would, say to somebody like T-Mobile—and I don't have their service. I don't have a dog in that fight. But they could say to an entity like T-Mobile: Look, we are not going to let you have a no-charge access to data through your plan, through your wireless plan. No, that won't work. You have to charge something.

If this net neutrality—so-called, which, when you hear ''net neutrality,'' it ought to mean, in your mind, government-controlled, because it is actually antithetical to what it says it is. It is government-controlled.

But that would say to somebody who is trying to break into the market, they would say: Okay. We would give you free access, no cost, no data cap, so that we could get into the market, develop customers. They would be loyal to us.

No, the government wants net neutrality/government control to be back in place. They can say: You can't do that. We are not going to let you become competitive with the two companies that control the lion's share of the internet.

The government shouldn't be in that business. Let it be competitive.

It just seems every time the government gets its hands on something that has been as productive as the internet, it chokes it; it overwhelms it with regulation. That has been one of the beauties of the internet.

So, as this article says: ''Net neutrality''—government-controlled—''is not needed to save the internet but, in fact, could jeopardize it.

''The FCC was right to reject the net neutrality''—or government-controlled—''rules completely. Congress should do the same.''

Even though it has passed the House, 13 Democrats voted with the Republicans, who said: Look, let's at least

add a provision to this bill that forbids the government from taxing, just completely forbids it, so you can't tax the internet. For internet service, you're not going to tax internet service.

And so that was bipartisan. We had 13 Democrats vote with us. We don't want to tax the internet service.

But, unfortunately, it was narrowly defeated by a majority, being all Democrats voted to allow the potential to tax the internet.

So that ought to tell you, basically, what you need to know about net neutrality. It is going to be a way, number one, for government control and, number two, to eventually get around to providing revenue—that means taxes—on what has not been taxed so far.

GREG WALDEN, who is managing this bill, had a good article. He said: ''Net neutrality is a bipartisan issue in Congress. Despite the overheated rhetoric and the political talking points, Democrats actually agree with me and my Republican colleagues on the key net neutrality parameters that protect a free and open internet for consumers.

''Democrats agree with Republicans that internet traffic should not be blocked. There is bipartisan support for prohibiting the blocking of illegal content on the internet.

''Democrats agree with Republicans that internet service providers should not be allowed to impair or degrade lawful internet traffic on the basis of content''—as long as it is legal—''a process known as throttling. There is bipartisan support for prohibiting the throttling of illegal content on the internet.''

But it goes on to say: ''Democrats, however, believe that net neutrality can only be achieved by regulating the internet as if it were a utility under title II of the Communications Act, which was originally used to govern monopoly telephone companies in the 1930s. The 'Save the Net Act,' imposes the heavy hand of Washington's regulatory bureaucracy over the single most important driver of economic growth, job creation, and a better quality of life for all Americans. This will do everything but save the internet.

''''Title II' sounds inconsequential, but layering this new national governance over the web''—over the internet—''would give the Federal Communications Commission unbridled regulatory authority'' over the internet. ''The government would have the power to tax the internet''—because most of the Democrats voted to allow taxing the internet—and it would allow them to ''dictate where and when new broadband networks can be deployed and take over the management of private networks.''

In a rural district like his in eastern Oregon, ''title II inhibited the ability of small internet service providers to expand broadband to underserved communities, saddling these small businesses with onerous reporting requirements that shifted their focus from their customers to new, expensive regulatory interference. Nationwide, title II had a chilling effect on internet investment, which declined for the first time since the dawn of the internet age, decreasing consumer choice and increasing the digital divide.''

As GREG WALDEN says: ''Fortunately, we do not need title II to achieve real net neutrality. Republicans have put forth serious proposals—a menu of options—that would keep the internet open and free, so it can continue to be a driver of opportunity for all.''

But that means, since it just passed the House, we are going to need to count on the Senate not to take up more government control of the internet but, instead, to take up a bill that does keep things fair instead of having more government control and potentially taxing the internet usage.

I shift to another topic, since Attorney General Barr testified this week, may be testifying again. It is interesting, as more information comes rolling out about the Muellergate.

This article from the Daily Caller, from Chuck Ross, ''Cambridge Academic Reflects on Interactions with 'Spygate' Figure.'' Her name is Svetlana Lokhova. She says she ''did not get along with Stefan Halper, which is what she says made a dinner invitation to the Cambridge University professor's home in January 2016 all the more peculiar.

'' 'Halper was a lurking presence with a horrible aura—I avoided him,' said Lokhova, a Cambridge postgraduate student who studies Soviet-era espionage.

''Lokhova dodged the invitation to Halper's home, which she said was sent to her by Christopher Andrew, a Cambridge professor and official historian for MI5, the British domestic intelligence service. But the past 3 years have revealed new details about Halper and other activities that went on at Cambridge that have caused Lokhova to question why she was asked to that dinner at Halper's.

''For one, a series of stories that appeared in the press in early 2017 heavily implied Lokhova was a Russian agent who tried to suborn Michael Flynn at a dinner hosted at Cambridge on February 28, 2014. Flynn served at the time as Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency.

''A year after those stories appeared, The Daily Caller News Foundation reported Halper cozied up to three Trump campaign advisers: Carter Page, Sam Clovis, and George Papadopoulos.''

Isn't that interesting? Those are the ones—particularly Carter Page and George Papadopoulos. Those are the people that the Department of Justice and FBI used to claim there were some kind of ties to Russia when, now, we are finding out it was Fusion GPS. It was Bruce Ohr at the FBI, his wife Nellie Ohr, working with Fusion GPS and working with foreign agents, former foreign agent, also, we know, from MI6.

But, apparently, they are working with the British Government in trying to create reasons that the FBI could go before the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, FISA's secret Star Chamber, and get warrants to spy on the Trump campaign.

It all started to come out. This is somebody who is now described—or has been, in the last 2 years: Oh, this was a Russian agent. It turns out, she was being manipulated by MI5 and by people, as we will be finding out, with the Justice Department, FBI, Clinton campaign, to try to set up so that they could go after the Trump campaign officials, spy on them, and potentially bring down the Trump campaign as an insurance policy just in case the unthinkable happened and Donald Trump were elected President.

The article goes on: ''A year after those stories appeared,'' as it says, ''Halper cozied to three Trump campaign advisers. . . . In May 2018, Halper was revealed as a longtime CIA and FBI informant, a revelation that led President Donald Trump to accuse the FBI of planting a spy in his campaign. The Republican coined the term 'Spygate' to describe the alleged scandal.

''After Halper's links to American intelligence were revealed, The New York Times and The Washington Post reported he and another Cambridge luminary, former MI6 chief Richard Dearlove, raised concerns about Lokhova's contacts with Flynn that were subsequently passed to American and British intelligence.''

Far bigger than Watergate, because Watergate concerned people hired by the committee to reelect Richard Nixon, when this involves the spies owned, controlled, and former spies of the British Government working in collusion with the FBI, the Clinton campaign, Fusion GPS.

It says: ''Lokhova blames Halper for distorting her brief interaction with Flynn into, 'an international espionage scandal' in which she wound up as collateral damage.

''What Halper staged is a textbook 'black-op' to dirty up the reputation of a political opponent. He needed an innocuous social event to place Flynn in a room with a woman who was ethnically Russian''—I was unlucky to be picked.

''Lokhova, a dual Russian and British citizen, has spoken out before about Halper and the allegations about her in the media. She accused Halper of making 'false' and 'absurd' claims about her in 2018 interviews with TheDCNF. She has also taken to Twitter to criticize the reporters who published allegations about her and Flynn.''

□ 1245

''The Guardian's Luke Harding is one target of Lokhova's ire. She has criticized the British reporter for a March 31, 2017, story that contained thinly veiled allegations she tried to compromise Flynn.

''According to the report, which was based on anonymous sources, American

and British intelligence developed concerns about Lokhova's interactions with Flynn at the February 2014 dinner, which was hosted by the Cambridge Intelligence Seminar. Halper, Dearlove, and Andrew are co-conveners of the seminar, which hosts events for current and former spies.''

Halper, Dearlove, and Andrew, they appear to be the ones who should have been spied on, but, instead, they are the ones being used by British intelligence, working together with the FBI, the Department of Justice, Fusion GPS, Bruce Ohr, Nellie Ohr, and the Clinton campaign, to come after Donald Trump.

''The Wall Street Journal also published an innuendo-laden story March 18, 2017, about Flynn and Lokhova. The hook for the story was that Flynn had failed to report his contact with Lokhova to the Defense Intelligence Agency.

''Lokhova, who has lived in the U.K. since 1998, vehemently denies the insinuations in the articles that she is a Russian agent or that she tried to seduce Flynn. She has provided emails and photographs to TheDCNF to help back up her case. She also notes that all of the allegations about her have been made anonymously.

''Dan O'Brien, a Defense Intelligence Agency official who accompanied Flynn to the Cambridge event, told TheWSJ he saw nothing untoward involving Lokhova. Lokhova's partner, David North, has told TheDCNF he picked Lokhova up after the event.

''Since learning more about Halper, Lokhova has reflected back on the few interactions she had with him over the years at Cambridge.

''A veteran of three Republican administrations, Halper joined Cambridge in 2001. From his perch at the stories university, Halper wrote books about American politics and the geopolitical threat that China poses to the West. He also received over $1 million in contracts from the Pentagon's Office of Net Assessment to write studies on Russia, China, and Afghanistan.''

It is interesting, as an aside, but Adam Lovinger was working for the Defense Department, and his job was to look for improprieties within the Defense Department. He noticed these million-dollar contracts going to Stefan Halper and said: Wait a minute. We are paying this guy $1 million? We are not getting anything for it. What is this about?

And for that, the Obama administration crushed Adam Lovinger. He was an honest whistleblower. He wasn't even a whistleblower. He was doing his job, which was to look for improprieties. He found things that raised questions. He raised the questions about: Why is Stefan Halper being paid all of this money? We are not getting anything from this guy that helped the Pentagon. Why is he getting a million bucks from the Pentagon?

Well, unfortunately, for Adam Lovinger, he stepped on a land mine, and the Obama administration set out to get him fired and to destroy him for noticing the impropriety—at least, it appeared to be an impropriety; that is why he brought it up—that involved Stefan Halper that was used by the Obama administration Justice Department, FBI, Fusion GPS to help them set up the Trump campaign.

''Lokhova says she first remembers seeing Halper in November 2013, when she gave a talk about her research on Soviet-era spy archives.''

She said: '' 'The guy looks at us like we're completely horrible people, and then gets up and sits across the room.'

''Lokhova also said she learned from a Cambridge faculty member that Halper was spreading rumors that she was linked to Russian intelligence.''

Anyway, it just shows how outrageous the conduct has been that we are now beginning to find out about. And, certainly, it was high time, after 2 years of finding nothing for which the Mueller special counsel office was set up, hiring people who hated Trump, they couldn't find anything. They couldn't find evidence that they could take to a grand jury and get an indictment.

And that is just probable cause. That is not beyond a reasonable doubt standard.

And, certainly, because Mueller couldn't stand the man who—24 hours before Mueller was offered the special counsel job, he had been begging President Trump to make him the Director of the FBI again. President Trump turned him down. Twenty-four hours later, he jumps at the chance, although he certainly should have recused himself. He was conflicted in far too many ways to be a special counsel on something involving Russia. He jumped at the chance to investigate the guy who refused to hire him.

Another article from Catherine Herridge. And Catherine Herridge has done extraordinary work looking into these different issues.

She points out that: ''Russian woman claims she was manipulated into entrapping General Flynn.''

''A Russian-born academic who was at the center of attention in 2017 for past contact with former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn told FOX News in an exclusive interview that she is not a spy for Moscow—and, to the contrary, believes she was 'used' to smear Flynn.''

She said: ''I think there's a high chance that it was coordinated, and I believe it needs to be properly investigated.''

So Catherine has done good work on that.

And then an article from Jason Beale from The Federalist, entitled: ''How Obama Holdover Sally Yates Helped Sink Michael Flynn.''

And of course, we know Sally Yates was working as the Deputy Attorney General, and she refused to defend constitutional activity by the Trump administration, so she was fired. Unfortunately, there were people who were totally devoted to Sally Yates, couldn't stand Trump, some of whom are still at the Department of Justice undermining the Trump administration.

But this goes on to say, '' . . . Deputy Attorney General Sally Yates made a couple of urgent trips from the Department of Justice building to the White House, carrying information she believed to be critical to U.S. national security.

''Yates was aware, likely through intercepts of Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak's communications, that the newly seated national security advisor, retired Lieutenant General Michael Flynn, had discussed with Kislyak Russia's response to the Obama administration imposition of sanctions for Russia's attempts to meddle in the 2016 elections. According to news reports, Flynn had asked Kislyak to wait a few weeks and allow the incoming Trump administration a chance to review the issue before Russia retaliated. Flynn's conversations with Kislyak occurred on December 29, the day Obama announced the sanctions.

''Recall that this period between the election of Trump in early November and his inauguration in late January was characterized by a frenzy of questionable and as-yet unexplained actions taken by the Obama White House, intelligence agencies, and the State Department. The Steele dossier was in circulation at various levels of government and media officialdom; Carter Page's communications—and those of anyone with whom he communicated, and anyone with whom they communicated—were being monitored by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and National Security Agency.

''The great unmasking had also begun, with unprecedented numbers of requests forwarded from various Obama administration officials to the NSA to reveal the identities of American citizens otherwise protected in their reporting and transcribing of intercepts of foreign official communications. Distribution regulations were relaxed to allow wider access to these NSA intercepts, and the word went out throughout the halls of every government agency to get everything into the system, lest these barbarians coming into office destroy evidence and deny their roles as Russian agents.

''It was inevitable, then, that David Ignatius of The Washington Post would publish a column on January 12 describing Flynn's December 29 phone calls with Kislyak, information he attributed to 'a senior U.S. Government official.' Ignatius' column began thusly:

'' 'Something is rotten in the state of Denmark,' mutters Marcellus as ghosts and mad spirits haunt Elsinore castle in the first act of Shakespeare's 'Hamlet.'

''After this past week of salacious leaks about foreign espionage plots and indignant denials, people must be wondering if something is rotten in the

state of our democracy. How can we dispel the dark rumors that, as Hamlet says, 'shake our disposition'?

''The 'senior U.S. Government official' who leaked both the name of a U.S. citizen captured in an intercept of a foreign government official's communications, and the fact that the foreign official was under NSA surveillance, has not been identified. Nor has there been any indication that a thorough investigation has been, or is being, carried out in search of his or her identity.''

It is a crime. What happened to smear Flynn and the Trump campaign involved crimes by senior DOJ officials. Perhaps it was Sally Yeats who committed the crime, perhaps others, but it needs to be investigated, and there was no way in this world that Robert Mueller was going to investigate anything to do with corruption in the Obama administration.

There it was, all of these leaks that were clear, most of them. Each of them would have been a crime. There is plenty of evidence there to support that. But, instead, Special Counsel Robert Mueller pursued things and got indictments for things that made clear we didn't need a special counsel to do what Bob Mueller was doing.

If you look back, there is nothing he did, nothing he produced that could not have been done without a special counsel's office. In fact, he ended up having to pass some stuff off to the U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York.

Even as badly compromised as Bob Mueller was from even being special counsel, he recognized he had gone beyond his limits, as broad as they were, and needed to pass some of those things off.

There is another article here from Brooke Singman, ''DOJ Watchdog Reportedly Scrutinizing Role of FBI Informant in the Russia Probe.''

It talks about: '' . . . Inspector General Michael Horwitz is looking into informant Stefan Halper's work during the Russia probe, as well as his work with the FBI prior to the start of that probe.''

And the article goes on to talk about Halper. I mean, he was used to try to set up Michael Flynn. He was used to try to set up Papadopoulos. He was used to try to set up Sam Clovis.

That was the insurance policy that Peter Strzok and Lisa Page texted, lovingly, back and forth about, although, to the ignorance of Peter Strzok's wife.

Some people think, when I asked Peter Strzok in our Judiciary Committee hearing about him having that same smirk the hundreds of times he lied to his wife, that that was inappropriate; it violated the rules.

Well, the rules in our committees are extremely relaxed compared to rules in a jury trial of which I have had many as a litigant and as a judge. I know the rules.

□ 1300

I know the rules, and I heard him in his deposition talk about how he never lies, he just always tells the truth. I knew he was lying when he said basically that he remembered Frank Rucker, the investigator for the intelligence inspector general, coming over and advising about something, but he didn't remember what it was about.

I guarantee you, he was lying when he said that because Frank Rucker went over—and it is now public. I knew at the time, but it has now been made public. It was China, and the intelligence inspector general knew China was getting every email going in and out of Hillary Clinton's private server.

Since Strzok and others apparently had protected information about what happened with her server, here comes the intelligence inspector general's investigator who discovered the fact that her private server had been compromised. He rushes over with Janette McMillan from the intelligence community. She was an attorney.

They briefed Dean Chappell, who was the FBI liaison with intel, and the FBI's head of counterintelligence, Peter Strzok, and he tells him: Look, we now have proof positive Hillary Clinton's private server was hacked. We found this anomaly in there.

As I dug in to figure out what this thing is, it was an embedded placement in the server that directed every email coming in and every email going out of Hillary Clinton's private server, which we also know contained classified information, and directed it to go to a known front organization for the Chinese Government.

Peter Strzok, after all the protection he tried to afford Hillary Clinton, is going to sit there and lie and say: Well, I remember Frank Rucker coming over and telling us something, but I don't really remember what it was.

He remembered very well what Frank Rucker said. That was a lie. Since he has said previously that he told the truth, then any time he had ever told a lie, it would have been admissible in front of a jury. Even with the more restricted rules of evidence, you could have asked about every time he ever lied. I just chose to make one blanket question about the hundreds of times he lied to his wife. He does not always tell the truth. He is a liar, and he lied there under oath.

That wasn't the only thing. Yes, David Ignatius participated as a recipient of criminal—of a crime, really—sending him leaked information from either the Justice Department, FBI, or NSA. Any one of them that submitted information to him committed a crime. We need to know who it was. We need to know how deep and how far these crimes committed by our people who are supposed to be investigating crimes, not committing them, how far this goes.

Now that Mueller will be out of the picture, I think we have a chance to get those things determined. As long as he was there, then these folks were protected. But now that he is finished wasting America's money and time, we can start getting down to investigating the real crimes that occurred.

I want to finish. I got a copy of a wonderful book, really interesting, called ''Dark Agenda'' by David Horowitz. I was in his presence once, and I introduced him as—he was a former socialist. David Horowitz turned 80 this year. He said: No, I was a communist. I was a complete communist. I was one of those rebelling in the sixties. I was part of the riots and all those things.

He came to understand that communism doesn't work. It never has. Socialism doesn't work. Margaret Thatcher said that the reason it doesn't work is that, eventually, you run out of other people's money.

I would submit that the answer I got at a Russian—well, Ukrainian—collective farm back in the seventies. I said: Why aren't you out working in the field? It is midmorning.

The farmer says: I make the same number of rubles if I am out there in the sun as I do in the shade, so I stay in the shade.

Those who are crazy enough to work while others are getting paid the same as them eventually quit working, and the whole system falls. It always does.

It sounds wonderful, share and share alike. Isn't that socialism and communism? Isn't that wonderful? Share and share alike.

A Christian ought to be in favor of that, except it requires in this world a totalitarian government strong enough and powerful enough to take from those who earn and give to those who don't and strong enough to suppress anybody who objects.

Eventually, it falls. It can't work. It never will work. It never has worked.

But David Horowitz deals with another subject here in ''Dark Agenda,'' and I think it is worth hearing his words themselves.

The first chapter is named ''Religion Must Die.''

He starts: ''On Sunday morning, November 5, 2017, a gunman walked into the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas. He wore tactical gear and a black face mask marked with a white skull, and he carried a semiautomatic rifle. He shot and killed two people outside the church, then went inside, walking up and down the aisle, cursing and shooting people in the pews. He reloaded again and again, emptying 15 magazines of ammunition.

''When the gunman emerged from the church, he found an armed citizen facing him from across the street, a former NRA firearms instructor named Stephen Willeford. The two men exchanged fire, and Willeford hit the gunman in the leg and upper body. The wounded shooter limped to his car and sped away. He was later found at the wheel of his crashed car, killed by a self-inflicted gunshot to the head.

''The attack killed 26 people, ages 5 to 72, and wounded 20. The killer had been court-martialed in the Air Force for domestic violence. He had beaten his wife and cracked the skull of his infant stepson. The Air Force failed to

report his conviction to the FBI's crime information database.''

Parenthetically, we didn't need new laws. We just needed for people to obey the laws we had. The Air Force violated the law, and this guy got his gun as a result. The Air Force failed to obey the law and report this to the FBI's crime information database. He got a gun and did destruction.

Horowitz said: ''The slaughter of unarmed Christians in a church sanctuary was a cowardly attack on one church. But what happened after the church shooting was part of a wider war by the political left against Christians and Christianity.

''As news of the shooting broke, prominent Christians took to Twitter and urged fellow believers to pray. Speaker of the House Paul Ryan, a devout Roman Catholic, tweeted, 'Reports out of Texas are devastating. The people of Sutherland Springs need our prayers right now.'

''From Hollywood to New York and Washington, the left responded with a chorus of jeers and insults. Former MSNBC political commentator Keith Olbermann suggested in a tweet that Speaker Ryan should proctologize himself with his prayers.

''Seattle Democrat Representative PRAMILA JAYAPAL tweeted, 'They were praying when it happened. They don't need our prayers. They need us to address gun violence.' Comedian Paula Poundstone sneered, 'If prayers were the answer' to mass shootings, 'wouldn't people at a church service be safe?' Actor Wil Wheaton tweeted, 'The murdered victims were in a church. If prayers did anything, they would still be alive, you worthless sack of. . . . '

''These and other comments from the secular left displayed not only a smug disdain for Christians but an amazing ignorance of how religious Christians view prayer.''

Mr. Speaker, keep in mind that David Horowitz has been an atheist—he is Jewish—and he is writing this book. Amazing.

''Christians don't view prayer as a magic incantation to make themselves bulletproof. Christians believe in the teachings of Christ who warned them: 'In the world ye shall have tribulation.' In the Garden of Gethsemane, Christ prayed to be delivered from the agony of the cross, but He ended His prayer, 'Nevertheless not my will, but Thine, be done.' The answer to Christ's prayer was silence, and He was later crucified on a Roman cross.

''In her commentary on the church shooting, MSNBC host Joy-Ann Reid tweeted that 'when Jesus of Nazareth came upon thousands of hungry people,' He didn't pray. He fed the people.''

Horowitz said: ''She is simply wrong. Matthew 14:19 records that, before Jesus fed the people, He looked heavenward and prayed. Jesus prayed and He acted. That is how His followers still view prayer. They pray and they act.

''At around the same time Joy-Ann Reid was tweeting, the Billy Graham Rapid Response Team was already in action, rolling into Sutherland Springs with 16 chaplains to comfort grieving families and help meet their material needs. Two days after the shooting, the Southern Baptist Convention announced it would pay all funeral expenses for the 26 slain churchgoers.

''Because this is a world made by flawed human beings, it will continue to be a world of tribulations. There will be more shootings, attacks, fires, floods, earthquakes, and other tragedies. Christians will call for prayer, and leftists will mock them for it, imagining there are solutions that can perfect this life and regarding Christians as the enemies of that perfection.

''Since its birth in the fires of the French Revolution, the political left has been at war with religion and with the Christian religion in particular.''

Again, Mr. Speaker, this is really interesting coming from an atheist Jewish individual.

Horowitz said: ''In a symbolic revolutionary act, the Jacobin leaders of the French Revolution changed the name of the Cathedral of Notre Dame to the 'Temple of Reason.' Then, in the name of 'reason,' they proceeded to massacre the inhabitants of the Vendee region of west-central France because its citizens were Catholics.

''This has been called the first modern genocide, but it was far from the last. Karl Marx famously described religion as 'the opium of the people' and 'the sigh of the oppressed.' Inspired by his hatred ever since, revolutionaries have regarded religion as the enemy of progress and the mask of oppression.

''In Russia, Marx's disciples removed religious teaching from the schools, outlawed criticism of atheists and agnostics, and burned 100,000 churches. When priests demanded freedom of religion, they were sentenced to death. Between 1917 and 1935, 130,000 Russian Orthodox priests were arrested, 95,000 of whom were executed by firing squad.

''Radicals in America today don't have the political power to execute religious people and destroy their houses of worship. Yet they openly declare their desire to obliterate religion. In their own minds, their intentions are noble. They want to save the human race from the social injustice and oppression that religion allegedly inflicts on humanity.

'''Religion must die in order for mankind to live,' proclaimed left-wing commentator and comedian Bill Maher in 'Religulous,' the most-watched documentary feature of 2008. Both title and script were transparent attempts to stigmatize religious people as dangerous morons whose views could not be taken seriously.

''Throughout the film, Maher travels to Jerusalem, the Vatican, and Salt Lake City, as well as other centers of religion, interviewing believers and making them appear foolish. How did he gain interviews with his victims? He lied to them, saying he was making a film called 'A Spiritual Journey.'

''According to Maher, 'The irony of religion is that because of its power to divert man to destructive courses, the world could actually come to an end.' He predicts the destruction of the human race as a result of 'religion-inspired nuclear terrorism.' Hence the need for religion to die if mankind is to live.

''Maher's views accurately reflect the attitudes of a movement called the 'New Atheism,' whose leaders are prominent scientists and best-selling authors, far superior in intellect to Maher but equally contemptuous of religion and religious believers.''

□ 1315

''Like Maher's film, the New Atheism movement seeks to discredit all religious belief by caricaturing its adherents as simpletons, and worse. The stated goal of the New Atheism is to delegitimize and extinguish the religious point of view.

''Maher's suggestion that religion—and evidently religion alone—threatens the existence of the human race is simply malicious. Both he and the New Atheists are blind to all the positive influences religion has had on human behavior, and they ignore all the atheist-inspired genocides of the last 250 years. In the 20th century alone, Communist atheists slaughtered more than 100 million people in Russia, China, and Indochina. Not even the bloodthirsty jihadists of radical Islam have killed innocents on anything close to such a scale.

''It's striking that Maher and the New Atheists ignore the appalling body count of Marxism—an ideology that is explicitly atheistic, whose atrocities were committed in the name of social justice. According to Maher, it is religious people who are 'irrationalists,' and dangerous because they 'steer the ship of state not by a compass, but by the equivalent of reading the entrails of a chicken.' Yet civilization was built and improved by such irrationalists—believers like Locke, Newton, Washington, Wilberforce, Sojourner Truth, and Abraham Lincoln. For the five millennia of recorded history, with few exceptions the most rational, compassionate, and successful decision-makers, both military and civilian, have been people guided by a belief in God, including some whose spiritual compass took the form of reading the entrails of a chicken.''

That is David Horowitz' sense of humor.

''Near the end of Maher's rant, he pauses to address any religionist who may have unwittingly strayed into the cinema where 'Religulous' was playing: 'Look in the mirror and realize that the solace and comfort that religion brings you actually comes at a terrible price. If you belonged to a political party or a social club that was tied to as much bigotry, misogyny, homophobia, violence, and sheer ignorance as religion is, you'd resign in protest.'''

Horowitz says: ''How myopic. And the crimes and horrors committed by atheism? From the French Revolution to the Bolshevik, from the Vendee to Vietnam, the bigotries and atrocities committed by the forces of godlessness match and even outweigh those committed by the forces of godliness. If a history of violence, persecution, and murder serves to discredit an ideology, why hasn't Maher resigned in protest from the party of atheism?''

I appreciate those brilliant, insightful observations by an atheist Jew, who is a friend. Amazing from a man who is an overt, unapologetic, rebellious communist, to now having written a good account of the war to destroy Christian America.

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

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO BE AVAILABLE TO SERVE ON INVESTIGATIVE SUBCOMMITTEES OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to clause 5(a)4(A) of rule X, and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, of the following Members of the House to be available to serve on investigative subcommittees of the Committee on Ethics for the 116th Congress:

Ms. BONAMICI, Oregon
Mr. HIGGINS, New York
Mr. KEATING, Massachusetts
Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Illinois
Mr. PERLMUTTER, Colorado
Mr. RASKIN, Maryland
Ms. SEWELL, Alabama
Mr. SOTO, Florida
Ms. TITUS, Nevada

COMMUNICATION FROM THE REPUBLICAN LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable KEVIN MCCARTHY, Republican Leader:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 9, 2019.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to Clause 5(a)(4)(A) of rule X, I am pleased to appoint the following Republican Members of the House to be available to serve on investigative subcommittees of the Committee on Ethics for the 116th Congress:

The Honorable BILL FLORES of Texas.
The Honorable JOHN W. ROSE of Tennessee.
The Honorable PETE OLSON of Texas.
The Honorable ANN WAGNER of Missouri.
The Honorable JOHN KATKO of New York.
The Honorable BEN CLINE of Virginia.
The Honorable BILL HUIZENGA of Michigan.
The Honorable DAVID ROUZER of North Carolina.
The Honorable JOHN H. RUTHERFORD of Florida.
The Honorable VICKY HARTZLER of Missouri.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Republican Leader.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 1839. An act to amend title XIX to extend protection for Medicaid recipients of home and community-based services against spousal impoverishment, establish a State Medicaid option to provide coordinated care to children with complex medical conditions through health homes, prevent the misclassification of drugs for purposes of the Medicaid drug rebate program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2030. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to execute and carry out agreements concerning Colorado River Drought Contingency Management and Operations, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Friday, April 12, 2019, at 2:30 p.m.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the fourth quarter of 2018 and the first quarter of 2019, pursuant to Public Law 95–384, are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DANIEL SADLOSKY, EXPENDED BETWEEN FEB. 16 AND FEB. 22, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Daniel Sadlosky	2/18	2/20	United Arab Emirates		1,111.89		*11,858.39				
	2/20	2/22	Saudi Arabia		957.32						13,927.60
Committee total					2,069.21		11,858.39				13,927.60

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
*Total air.

MR. DANIEL SADLOSKY, March 25, 2019.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2018

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. John Curtis	10/1	10/2	Germany		292.00		(3)				292.00
	10/2	10/4	Rwanda		578.00		(3)				578.00
	10/4	10/7	Botswana		693.00		(3)				693.00
	10/7	10/8	Angola		480.00		(3)				480.00
	10/8	10/9	Tunisia		179.00		(3)				179.00
	10/9	10/10	Portugal		322.00		(3)				322.00
Matthew Zweig	10/21	10/23	United Kingdom		925.18		4,234.04				5,159.22
	10/23	10/26	Israel		1,460.00						1,460.00
	10/26	10/29	Bahrain		900.53						900.53
Mira Resnick	10/25	10/29	Bahrain		1,697.89		2,969.43				4,667.32
Janice Kaguyutan	10/20	10/23	Japan		1,362.00		7,241.11				8,603.11
	10/23	10/26	South Korea		992.00						992.00
Amy Porter	10/20	10/23	Japan		1,378.31		6,220.86				7,599.17
	10/23	10/26	South Korea		1,002.32						1,002.32
Douglas Anderson	10/20	10/23	Japan		1,362.31		6,220.86				7,583.17
	10/23	10/26	South Korea		985.52						985.52
Megan Gallagher	11/5	11/10	Niger		688.21		6,771.14				7,459.35
Mark Iozzi	11/5	11/10	Niger		688.21		6,771.14				7,459.35
Kimberly Stanton	11/21	11/24	Switzerland		1,325.17		1,034.88				2,360.05
Hon. Norma Torres	10/22	10/24	Guatemala				1,120.63				1,120.63
Eric Jacobstein	10/22	10/24	Guatemala				531.63				531.63

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2018—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Sajit Gandhi	10/21	10/24	India		986.85		9,417.90				10,404.75
	10/24	10/25	Afghanistan		33.00						33.00
Oren Adaki	11/2	11/4	Serbia		537.00		3,515.73				4,052.73
	11/4	11/6	Czech Republic		883.42						883.42
*Hon. Ted Poe	11/2	11/4	Serbia		537.00		*6,803.13		959.00		8,299.13
	11/4	11/6	Czech Republic		883.42						883.42
Leah Campos	11/30	12/2	Mexico		723.90		(3)				723.90
Hon. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen	10/18	10/21	Jordan		1,065.05		9,602.44				10,667.49
	10/21	10/24	Israel		1,630.00						1,630.00
	10/24	10/27	Morocco		870.29						870.29
	10/27	10/28	Spain		233.52						233.52
Nathan Gately	10/18	10/21	Jordan		1,065.05		12,099.74				13,164.79
	10/21	10/24	Israel		1,630.00						1,630.00
	10/24	10/27	Morocco		870.29						870.29
	10/27	10/28	Spain		233.52						233.52
Gabriella Boffelli	10/18	10/21	Jordan		1,065.05		12,099.74				13,164.79
	10/21	10/24	Israel		1,630.00						1,630.00
	10/24	10/27	Morocco		870.29						870.29
	10/27	10/28	Spain		233.52						233.52
Hon. Norma Torres	9/29	9/30	Honduras		226.43		1,558.49				1,784.92
	9/30	10/2	Guatem		357.83						357.83
**Hon. Tom Garrett	10/12	10/20	Moldova		**		**		**		**
	10/12	10/20	Ukraine		**		**		**		**
	10/12	10/20	Belarus		**		**		**		**
	10/12	10/20	Latvia		**		**		**		**
Russell Solomon	10/27	10/30	Egypt		819.00		2,900.73				3,719.73
	10/30	11/2	Tunisia		547.52						547.52
Emily Cottle	10/27	10/30	Egypt		745.00		2,970.63				3,715.63
	10/30	11/2	Tunisia		497.52						497.52
Cory Fritz	10/21	10/27	South Africa		1,475.95		13,180.43				14,656.38
Thomas Sheehy	10/21	10/27	South Africa		1,475.95		13,180.43				14,656.38
*Hon. Edward Royce	10/21	10/27	South Africa		1,475.95		*13,406.73		2,290.52		17,173.20
***Hon. Lee Zeldin	12/21	12/27	Poland		***		***		883.27		883.27
	12/25	12/26	Kuwait		213.00		(3)		1,643.00		1,856.00
	12/26	12/27	Sicily		252.41		(3)				252.41
	12/27	12/28	Spain		132.75		(3)				132.75
Hon. Brian Fitzpatrick	12/25	12/26	Kuwait		213.00		(3)				213.00
	12/26	12/27	Sicily		227.98		(3)				227.98
	12/27	12/28	Spain		132.75		(3)				132.75
Committee total					42,085.86		143,851.84		5,775.79		191,713.49

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.
* Indicates Delegation costs.
** Indicates a cancelled mission.
*** Indicates Delegation costs due to a cancelled mission.

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL, March 20, 2019.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO BELGIUM, EXPENDED BETWEEN FEB. 16 AND FEB. 21, 2019

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Michael Turner	2/16	2/21	Belgium		1,474.59		1,739.83				3,214.42
Hon. Filemon Vela	2/18	2/20	Belgium		1,338.59						1,338.59
Hon. Gerald Connolly	2/16	2/21	Belgium		1,474.59						1,474.59
Hon. Joe Wilson	2/16	2/21	Belgium		1,429.05		1,053.80				2,482.85
Kate Knudson	2/16	2/21	Belgium		1,474.59						1,474.59
Collin Davenport	2/16	2/21	Belgium		1,610.59						1,610.59
Edmund Rice	2/16	2/21	Belgium		1,610.59						1,610.59
Hon. Brett Guthrie	2/16	2/21	Belgium		1,610.59						1,610.59
Hon. James Costa	2/16	2/20	Belgium		1,224.97		4,472.72				5,697.69
Hon. John Shimkus	2/16	2/21	Belgium		1,610.59						1,610.59
Hon. Rick Larsen	2/16	2/21	Belgium		1,610.59						1,610.59
Committee total					16,469.33		7,266.35				23,735.68

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY, March 25, 2019.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

680. A letter from the Acting Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of General Curtis M. Scaparrotti, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of general on the retired list, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1370(c)(1); Public Law 96-513, Sec. 112 (as amended by Public Law 104-106, Sec. 502(b)); (110 Stat. 293); to the Committee on Armed Services.

681. A letter from the Under Secretary, Army, Department of Defense, transmitting the Annual Report to Congress on the Activities of the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation for 2018, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 343(i); Public Law 106-398, Sec. 1 (as amended by Public Law 107-314, Sec. 932(a)(1)); (116 Stat. 2625); to the Committee on Armed Services.

682. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council, transmitting the Council's 2018 Annual Report to Congress, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 3305; to the Committee on Financial Services.

683. A letter from the Chairman, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration's 2018 Annual Report, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1752a(d); June 26, 1934, ch. 750, title I, Sec. 102(d) (as amended by Public Law 95-630, Sec. 501); (92 Stat. 3680); to the Committee on Financial Services.

684. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's Fleet Alternative Fuel Vehicle (AFV) Program Report for FY 2018, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 13218(b)(1); Public Law 102-486, Sec. 310 (as amended by Public Law 109-58, Sec. 705); (119 Stat. 817); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

685. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of Defense, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 17-078, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(c)(2)(A); Public Law 90-629, Sec. 36(c) (as added by Public Law 104-164, Sec.

141(c)); (110 Stat. 1431); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

686. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's Annual Report of Interdiction of Aircraft Engaged in Illicit Drug Trafficking, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2291-4(a)(2); Public Law 103-337, Sec. 1012(a)(2); (108 Stat. 2837); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

687. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 18-053, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(c)(2)(C); Public Law 90-629, Sec. 36(c) (as added by Public Law 94-329, Sec. 211(a)); (82 Stat. 1326); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

688. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 18-001, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(c)(2)(A); Public Law 90-629, Sec. 36(c) (as added by Public Law 104-164, Sec. 141(c)); (110 Stat. 1431); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

689. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 18-081, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(c)(2)(A); Public Law 90-629, Sec. 36(c) (as added by Public Law 104-164, Sec. 141(c)); (110 Stat. 1431); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

690. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 18-057, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(c)(2)(A); Public Law 90-629, Sec. 36(c) (as added by Public Law 104-164, Sec. 141(c)); (110 Stat. 1431); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

691. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 18-101, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) and (d) of the Arms Export Control Act, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(c)(2)(A); Public Law 90-629, Sec. 36(c) (as added by Public Law 104-164, Sec. 141(c)); (110 Stat. 1431); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

692. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Report to Congress on the International Atomic Energy Agency's Programs and Projects in Burma, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, and Syria in 2018, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2021 note; Public Law 105-277, Sec. 2809(c)(2); (112 Stat. 2681-850); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

693. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting Transmittal No. 19-27, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

694. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting a letter pursuant to the resolution of advice and consent to ratification of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (Convention); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

695. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting Transmittal No. 19-04, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

696. A letter from the Director, Department of Defense, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting Transmittal No. 19-15, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

697. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 18-087, pursuant to Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

698. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Determination pursuant to Sec. 451 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 for the use of funds to support South Sudan; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

699. A letter from the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Operating Officer, Armed Forces Retirement Home, Department of Defense, transmitting the Armed Forces Retirement Home Performance and Accountability Report and Senior Medical Advisor Report for fiscal year 2018, pursuant to 24 U.S.C. 411(h); Public Law 101-510, Sec. 1511 (as added by Public Law 107-107, Sec. 1403); (115 Stat. 1259); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

700. A letter from the Director, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's FY 2018 No FEAR Act report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat. 3242); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

701. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's FY 2018 Federal Information Security Modernization Act and Agency Privacy Management Report, pursuant to Public Law 113-283, 44 U.S.C. 3554(c); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

702. A letter from the Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's Annual Performance Report for Fiscal Years 2018-2020, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1115(b); Public Law 111-352, Sec. 3; (124 Stat. 3867); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

703. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's FY 2020 Annual Performance Plan and FY 2018 Annual Performance Report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1115(b); Public Law 111-352, Sec. 3; (124 Stat. 3867); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

704. A letter from the Presidential Appointments, Department of State, transmitting sixteen (16) notifications of a vacancy, designation of acting officer, nomination, action on nomination, or discontinuation of service in acting role, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

705. A letter from the Secretary, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting the Board's FY 2018 No FEAR Act report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat. 3242); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

706. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting the Attorney General's First Quarterly Report of FY 2019 on the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994, pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 4332(b)(2); Public Law 103-353, Sec. 2(a) (as added by Public Law 110-389, Sec. 312(c)); (122 Stat. 4165); jointly to the Committees on the Judiciary and Veterans' Affairs.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. PAPPAS (for himself, Mr. DELGADO, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire):

H.R. 2195. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish and maintain a registry for certain individuals who may have been exposed to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances due to the environmental release of aqueous film-forming foam on military installations; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BARR (for himself, Mr. LEVIN of California, and Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee):

H.R. 2196. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to reduce the credit hour requirement for the Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship program of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. DEFAZIO (for himself, Ms. TITUS, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, and Mr. MEADOWS):

H.R. 2197. A bill to amend the John F. Kennedy Center Act to authorize appropriations for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. DEFAZIO:

H.R. 2198. A bill to amend the Natural Gas Act with respect to application of the right to exercise eminent domain in construction of pipelines for the exportation of natural gas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CARBAJAL (for himself, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Ms. HILL of California):

H.R. 2199. A bill to designate certain Federal land in the State of California as wilderness, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. WESTERMAN (for himself, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. TIPTON, and Ms. STEFANIK):

H.R. 2200. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that certain diseases are covered by the presumption of service connection relating to the exposure to herbicides by certain veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. WESTERMAN (for himself, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. GIANFORTE, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. GALLAGHER, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. KILMER, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. HILL of Arkansas, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. DEUTCH, and Mr. THOMPSON of California):

H.R. 2201. A bill to modify the presumption of service connection for veterans who were

exposed to herbicide agents while serving in the Armed Forces in Thailand during the Vietnam era, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LIPINSKI (for himself and Mr. REED):

H.R. 2202. A bill to establish a coordinated Federal initiative to accelerate artificial intelligence research and development for the economic and national security of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Ms. ESCOBAR (for herself, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. ESPAILLAT, and Ms. GARCIA of Texas):

H.R. 2203. A bill to increase transparency, accountability, and community engagement within the Department of Homeland Security, provide independent oversight of border security activities, improve training for agents and officers of U.S. Customs and Border Protection and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, 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. WALTZ (for himself and Mr. DIAZ-BALART):

H.R. 2204. A bill to prohibit contracting with persons that have business operations with the Maduro regime, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. MCKINLEY (for himself, Mr. GIANFORTE, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. LAMALFA, Ms. CHENEY, Mr. STAUBER, and Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma):

H.R. 2205. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to make changes with respect to water quality certification, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. STANTON (for himself and Mr. GALLEGO):

H.R. 2206. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, to establish a program to provide environmental assistance to non-Federal interests in Arizona; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. KIND (for himself, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. AMASH, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. BABIN, Mr. BACON, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. BANKS, Mr. BARR, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. BERA, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. BOST, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. BRINDISI, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. BUCK, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. BUDD, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. BURGESS, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. CHABOT, Ms. CHENEY, Mr. CLINE, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. COLE, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. COMER, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. COOK, Mr. CORREA, Mr. COX of California, Mrs. CRAIG, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. CRIST, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DEAN, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. DUNN, Mr. EMMER, Mr. ESTES, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. FLORES, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Ms. FOXX of North Carolina, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. GIANFORTE, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. GUEST, Mr. HAGEDORN, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. HILL of Arkansas, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. HURD of Texas, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. KATKO, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KILMER, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. KINZINGER, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. LATTA, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. LONG, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. MAST, Mr. MCADAMS, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. MEUSER, Mrs. MILLER, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. NUNES, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. OLSON, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. PALMER, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. PENCE, Mr. PERRY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. PHILLIPS, Ms. PORTER, Mr. POSEY, Mr. RATCLIFFE, Mr. REED, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. RIGGLEMAN, Mrs. ROBY, Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. ROUDA, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. SMUCKER, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. STAUBER, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. STEIL, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. STEWART, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. TIPTON, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. TURNER, Mr. UPTON, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. VEASEY, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. WALKER, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. WATKINS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. WRIGHT, Mr. YOHO, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. GUTHRIE, and Mr. MOOLENAAR):

H.R. 2207. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on medical devices; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GARAMENDI:

H.R. 2208. A bill to improve the safety of the air supply on commercial aircraft, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. MEADOWS:

H.R. 2209. A bill to establish the position of Chief Pharmaceutical Negotiator in the Office of the United States Trade Representative responsible for conducting trade negotiations and enforcing trade agreements related to acts, policies, and practices of foreign governments that fail to appropriately reward United States innovation with respect to pharmaceuticals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut (for himself, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. KIND, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. SUOZZI, and Mrs. WALORSKI):

H.R. 2210. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal certain provisions applicable to foreign investment in United States real property; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. SOTO, and Mr. RUSH):

H.R. 2211. A bill to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a consumer product safety rule for free-standing clothing storage units to protect children from tip-over related death or injury, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

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

H.R. 2212. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to protect the right of a claimant in a civil action before a Federal court to retain a structured settlement broker to negotiate the terms of payment of an award, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California (for himself, Mr. REED, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, and Mr. SUOZZI):

H.R. 2213. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make the work opportunity credit permanent; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. JUDY CHU of California (for herself, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. STEVENS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. POCAN, Mr. EVANS, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. NADLER, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. BEYER, Ms. OMAR, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. ROSE of New York, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. GOMEZ, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. SHALALA, Mr. CORREA, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. MENG, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. LEWIS, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. SIRES, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mr. DOGGETT):

H.R. 2214. A bill to transfer and limit Executive Branch authority to suspend or restrict the entry of a class of aliens; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Homeland Security, and Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for

consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. JUDY CHU of California (for herself, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. HILL of California, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. CISNEROS, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. CARBAJAL, and Mr. HUFFMAN):

H.R. 2215. A bill to establish as a unit of the National Park System the San Gabriel National Recreation Area in the State of California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BURCHETT (for himself, Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee, and Mr. DESJARLAIS):

H.R. 2216. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a grant program for States that provide flexibility in licensing for health care providers who offer services on a volunteer basis; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (for herself, Ms. OMAR, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. COHEN, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. NADLER, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. FRANKEL, Ms. BASS, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. PERLMUTTER):

H.R. 2217. A bill to reduce the ability of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to engage in inappropriate civil immigration enforcement actions that harm unaccompanied alien children and to ensure the safety and welfare of unaccompanied alien children; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Appropriations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. WALORSKI (for herself and Ms. BROWNLEY of California):

H.R. 2218. A bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to conduct research on and implement certain safety measures and programs to prevent illegal passing of school buses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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. YOHO (for himself, Ms. TITUS, Mr. COHEN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Mr. MCGOVERN):

H.R. 2219. A bill to promote United States-Mongolia trade by authorizing duty-free treatment for certain imports from Mongolia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BABIN (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. GUEST, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. BRADY, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. FLORES, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. CARTER of Texas, and Mr. WEBER of Texas):

H.R. 2220. A bill to amend the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 with respect to high priority corridors on the National Highway System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS (for himself and Mr. LEVIN of California):

H.R. 2221. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship to children and spouses of certain deceased members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Ms. BONAMICI, and Mrs. DINGELL):

H.R. 2222. A bill to require a review of women and lung cancer, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H.R. 2223. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make permanent certain programs that assist homeless veterans and other veterans with special needs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H.R. 2224. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Labor to prioritize the provision of services to homeless veterans with dependent children in carrying out homeless veterans reintegration programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:

H.R. 2225. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a refundable credit against tax for landlords of veterans receiving rental assistance under the Veterans Affairs Supported Housing program; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BUCHANAN (for himself and Mr. MOULTON):

H.R. 2226. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to foreign traffickers of illicit opioids, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, Oversight and Reform, the Judiciary, Intelligence (Permanent Select), Armed Services, 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 Mrs. BUSTOS (for herself, Mr. WENSTRUP, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico, Mr. CROW, Mr. GOLDEN, Mr. CISNEROS, and Mr. PAPPAS):

H.R. 2227. A bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to authorize spouses of servicemembers who incur a catastrophic injury or illness or die while in military service to terminate leases of premises and motor vehicles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BUTTERFIELD:

H.R. 2228. A bill to offer persistent poverty counties and political subdivisions of such counties the opportunity to have their rural development loans restructured; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, and 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 Mr. CHABOT (for himself, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. BEYER, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. POSEY, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Mr. SWALWELL of California):

H.R. 2229. A bill to waive the passport fees for first responders proceeding abroad to aid a foreign country suffering from a natural disaster; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. CISNEROS:

H.R. 2230. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to pay educational assistance or subsistence allowances to certain individuals during school term, quarter, or semester breaks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. CLARKE of New York:

H.R. 2231. A bill to direct the Federal Trade Commission to require entities that use, store, or share personal information to conduct automated decision system impact assessments and data protection impact assessments; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CUMMINGS:

H.R. 2232. A bill to amend the Second Chance Act of 2007 to require identification for returning citizens, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois (for himself and Mr. EVANS):

H.R. 2233. A bill to require that States release persons charged with a misdemeanor on non-monetary conditions only prior to court adjudication; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois (for himself, Mr. WALKER, and Mr. LOUDERMILK):

H.R. 2234. A bill to increase funding for the 10-Year Pediatric Research Initiative Fund by eliminating taxpayer financing of presidential election campaigns; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. DEGETTE (for herself, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mrs. DINGELL, and Mr. DESJARLAIS):

H.R. 2235. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to cover physician services delivered by podiatric physicians to ensure access by Medicaid beneficiaries to appropriate quality foot and ankle care, to amend title XVIII of such Act to modify the requirements for diabetic shoes to be included under Medicare, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. DINGELL (for herself, Mr. MAST, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. LONG, Mr. UPTON, and Mr. HUFFMAN):

H.R. 2236. A bill to improve the management of forage fish; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. ESPAILLAT:

H.R. 2237. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a bollard installation grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. ESPAILLAT (for himself and Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky):

H.R. 2238. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain tax benefits related to empowerment zones; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. FRANKEL (for herself and Mr. YOHO):

H.R. 2239. A bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to provide for a deferral of the payment of a duty upon the sale of certain used vessels, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FULCHER (for himself, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. MASSIE, and Mr. POSEY):

H.R. 2240. A bill to end the practice of including more than one subject in a single bill by requiring that each bill enacted by Congress be limited to only one subject, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico:

H.R. 2241. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to treat Puerto Rico as one of the 50 States for purposes of calculating the Federal medical assistance percentage under the Medicaid program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico:

H.R. 2242. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to include certain services in the definition of critical services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico (for herself, Ms. PLASKETT, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, and Mr. SAN NICOLAS):

H.R. 2243. A bill to exempt health insurance of residents of United States territories from the annual fee on health insurance providers; 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 Mr. GOSAR (for himself, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. RIGGLEMAN, and Mr. STEUBE):

H.R. 2244. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require the disclosure of agreements between institutions of higher education and certain foreign sources, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. GRIJALVA (for himself, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. COHEN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. LYNCH, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mr. MOULTON):

H.R. 2245. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to prohibit import and export of any species listed or proposed to be listed under such Act as a threatened species or endangered species, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, 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. GUEST:

H.R. 2246. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 201 West Cherokee Street in Brookhaven, Mississippi, as the ''Deputy Donald William Durr, Corporal Zach Moak, and Patrolman James White Memorial Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. HECK (for himself and Mr. KILMER):

H.R. 2247. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to provide assistance for programs and activities to protect the water quality of Puget Sound, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana:

H.R. 2248. A bill to terminate the prohibitions on the exportation and importation of natural gas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HILL of Arkansas (for himself, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, and Ms. HOULAHAN):

H.R. 2249. A bill to require the review of the service of certain members of the Armed Forces during World War I to determine if such members should be awarded the Medal of Honor, to authorize the award of the Medal of Honor based on the results of the review, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. HUFFMAN (for himself, Mr. CARBAJAL, and Ms. JUDY CHU of California):

H.R. 2250. A bill to provide for restoration, economic development, recreation, and conservation on Federal lands in Northern California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HUNTER (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):

H.R. 2251. A bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to provide that a member of the armed forces and the spouse of that member shall have the same rights regarding the receipt of firearms at the location of any duty station of the member; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KILDEE (for himself and Ms. SPEIER):

H.R. 2252. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to establish a policy relating to lead testing on military installations; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. KILDEE (for himself and Ms. SPEIER):

H.R. 2253. A bill to prohibit the Secretary concerned from discouraging the inspection of military housing for lead-based paint or other sources of lead, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. KILDEE (for himself and Ms. SPEIER):

H.R. 2254. A bill to amend titles 10 and 37, United States Code, to ensure that children covered by the TRICARE program are screened and tested for lead levels, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. KILDEE (for himself and Ms. SPEIER):

H.R. 2255. A bill to direct the Secretaries of the military departments to submit certification and a report each year to the Secretaries of Defense and Housing and Urban Development regarding whether housing under the jurisdiction of the Secretaries of the military departments is in compliance with requirements relating to lead-based paint; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. KILDEE (for himself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. BEYER, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. PANETTA, Mrs. MURPHY, Mr. GOMEZ, and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois):

H.R. 2256. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify limitations on the credit for plug-in electric drive motor vehicles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KILDEE (for himself and Ms. SPEIER):

H.R. 2257. A bill to require lead testing in Department of Defense Education Activity schools, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KIND (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. REED, and Mr. PASCRELL):

H.R. 2258. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Small Business Act to expand the availability of employee stock ownership plans in S corporations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Labor, and Small Business, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KING of Iowa:

H.R. 2259. A bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to clarify employer rights with regard to hiring; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. KING of Iowa:

H.R. 2260. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to impose e-bonding requirements on certain nonimmigrant visa applicants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KING of New York (for himself, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. WELCH, Mr. VELA, and Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas):

H.R. 2261. A bill to amend title 11 of the United States Code, to allow full subrogation, including subrogation to the priority rights of the United States, of claims for the payment of customs duties; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. LAWRENCE (for herself, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. RASKIN, and Mr. COHEN):

H.R. 2262. A bill to prioritize educating and training for existing and new environmental health professionals; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. LESKO (for herself, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. SCHWEIKERT):

H.R. 2263. A bill to allow a State to submit a State management decision to the Secretary of Education to combine certain funds to improve the academic achievement of students; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. TED LIEU of California (for himself, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 2264. A bill to conserve global bear populations by prohibiting the importation, exportation, and interstate trade of bear viscera and items, products, or substances containing, or labeled or advertised as containing, bear viscera, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, 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 Mrs. LURIA:

H.R. 2265. A bill to enhance the ability of Federal agencies to deliver relocation management services to the Federal Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. MEADOWS (for himself, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. BANKS, Mr. BUDD, and Mr. MARSHALL):

H.R. 2266. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a child tax credit for pregnant moms with respect to their unborn children; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. MENG (for herself and Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire):

H.R. 2267. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to treat infant formula as adulterated if its use by date has passed; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. MENG:

H.R. 2268. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to treat certain menstrual products as misbranded if their labeling does not list each ingredient or component of the product, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. MENG:

H.R. 2269. A bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study and submit a report on the effects of food additives on children's health; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MITCHELL (for himself, Mr. BACON, and Mr. CARBAJAL):

H.R. 2270. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require assurances by recipients of assistance under section 402B or 402C of that Act with respect to activities for homeless children and youths and foster care children and youth, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. MOORE (for herself, Mr. COLE, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. NORTON, Mr. KING of New York, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, and Ms. DELBENE):

H.R. 2271. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. NADLER (for himself, Mrs. LOWEY, and Mr. SUOZZI):

H.R. 2272. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for adjustments in the individual income tax rates to reflect regional differences in the cost-of-living; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. NADLER:

H.R. 2273. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an increasingly larger earned income credit for families with more than 3 children; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. NEGUSE (for himself and Mr. RUIZ):

H.R. 2274. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans conservation corps, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, the Judiciary, 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 Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 2275. A bill to amend title 11, District of Columbia Official Code, to prohibit the exclusion of individuals from service on a District of Columbia jury on account of sexual orientation or gender identity; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. PAPPAS:

H.R. 2276. A bill to amend title 14, United States Code, to direct the Coast Guard to submit a report to Congress on efforts to increase gender diversity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. POCAN (for himself, Ms. MOORE, Mr. KIND, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. STEIL, and Mr. SENSENBRENNER):

H.R. 2277. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1715 Linnerud Drive in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, as the ''Fire Captain Cory Barr Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. ROONEY of Florida (for himself, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. PERRY):

H.R. 2278. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to establish a skills-based immigration points system, to focus family-sponsored immigration on spouses and minor children, to eliminate the Diversity Visa Program, to set a limit on the number of refugees admitted annually to the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RUIZ (for himself and Mr. WENSTRUP):

H.R. 2279. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to require a group health plan (or health insurance coverage offered in connection with such a plan) to provide an exceptions process for any medication step therapy protocol, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 2280. A bill to authorize assistance and training to increase maritime security and domain awareness of foreign countries bordering the Persian Gulf, the Arabian Sea, or the Mediterranean Sea in order to deter and counter illicit smuggling and related maritime activity by Iran, including illicit Iranian weapons shipments; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 2281. A bill to direct the Attorney General to amend certain regulations so that practitioners may administer not more than 3 days' medication to a person at one time when administering narcotic drugs for the purpose of relieving acute withdrawal symptoms; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RUIZ (for himself, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. KIND, and Mr. MARCHANT):

H.R. 2282. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to modernize the physician self-referral prohibitions to promote care coordination in the merit-based incentive payment system and to facilitate physician practice participation in alternative payment models under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SÁNCHEZ (for herself, Mr. LAHOOD, Ms. MATSUI, and Mrs. RODGERS of Washington):

H.R. 2283. A bill to provide better care and outcomes for Americans living with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias and their caregivers while accelerating progress toward prevention strategies, disease modifying treatments, and, ultimately, a cure; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska (for himself, Mr. BACON, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. KING of Iowa, and Ms. FINKENAUER):

H.R. 2284. A bill to provide disaster tax relief for certain disasters occurring in 2019; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 2285. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to revise the Mandatory Guidelines for Federal Workplace Drug Testing Programs to include testing for methadone use and to require Secretary of Transportation to issue regulations to include testing for methadone use in Department of Transportation drug tests; 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 Ms. STEFANIK (for herself, Mr. TURNER, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. STEWART, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. HURD of Texas, Mr. RATCLIFFE, Mr. CONAWAY, and Mr. NUNES):

H.R. 2286. A bill to amend the National Security Act of 1947 to direct the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to provide to the congressional intelligence committees briefings regarding counterintelligence activities of the Bureau, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. THORNBERRY:

H.R. 2287. A bill to clarify the definition of navigable waters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. TONKO (for himself, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. MORELLE, and Mr. NADLER):

H.R. 2288. A bill to increase the total authorization of appropriations for the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. VEASEY (for himself, Ms. ESCOBAR, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. SOTO, Mr. CORREA, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Mr. MCGOVERN):

H.R. 2289. A bill to amend section 240(c)(7)(C) of the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate the time limit on the filing of a motion to reopen a removal proceeding if the basis of the motion is fraud, negligence, misrepresentation, or extortion by, or the attempted, promised, or actual practice of law without authorization on the part of, a representative; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. WEXTON:

H.R. 2290. A bill to require the Federal financial regulators to issue guidance encouraging financial institutions to work with consumers and businesses affected by a Federal Government shutdown, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. LOEBSACK, and Mr. WESTERMAN):

H.R. 2291. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the donation of wild game meat; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. AMASH:

H.J. Res. 56. A joint resolution directing the President to terminate the use of the United States Armed Forces with respect to the military intervention led by Saudi Arabia in the Republic of Yemen; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mrs. TORRES of California (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. KHANNA, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. RUIZ, and Mr. COOPER):

H. Con. Res. 33. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MCGOVERN (for himself and Mr. BLUMENAUER):

H. Res. 302. A resolution embracing the goals and provisions of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. STEVENS (for herself, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, and Ms. JACKSON LEE):

H. Res. 303. A resolution expressing support for the designation of April 11, 2019, as ''Remanufacturing Day''; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. GREEN of Tennessee (for himself, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. COMER, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. ARMSTRONG, and Mr. ROY):

H. Res. 304. A resolution raising a question of the privileges of the House; to the Committee on Rules.

By Miss RICE of New York (for herself, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Mr. PAYNE):

H. Res. 305. A resolution expressing support for designation of April 2019 as ''Alcohol Responsibility Month'' and supporting the goals and ideals of responsible decisions regarding alcohol; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GAETZ:

H. Res. 306. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Congressman Adam Schiff should be removed from the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House and that his security clearance should be revoked immediately; to the Committee on Ethics.

By Mr. GOSAR:

H. Res. 307. A resolution congratulating the people and Government of the Republic of Slovenia on the 28th anniversary of the country's independence; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. LEE of California:

H. Res. 308. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Youth HIV & AIDS Awareness Day; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LOWENTHAL (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. CORREA, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. CISNEROS, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. ROUDA, and Ms. LOFGREN):

H. Res. 309. A resolution recognizing the 44th anniversary of the Fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MAST (for himself and Mr. SHERMAN):

H. Res. 310. A resolution reaffirming the unique collaboration among United States nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), including faith-based organizations, and the Israel Defense Forces to deliver humanitarian assistance to Syrians; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. NADLER (for himself, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. COHEN, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. TONKO, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. SIRES, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. MENG, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. ESPAILLAT, and Mr. JEFFRIES):

H. Res. 311. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, as an entity of the United States Postal Service, should issue a commemorative stamp in honor of the 150th anniversary of the Metropolitan Museum of Art; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Ms. PINGREE (for herself and Ms. BONAMICI):

H. Res. 312. A resolution expressing support for designation of the weeks of April 14, 2019, through April 27, 2019, as National Young Audiences Arts for Learning Weeks; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. SLOTKIN (for herself, Miss RICE of New York, and Mr. KING of New York):

H. Res. 313. A resolution designating April 24, 2019, as ''Meningitis B Awareness Day''; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ZELDIN (for himself and Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee):

H. Res. 314. A resolution providing for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 336) to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. DELGADO:

H.R. 2142.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. PAPPAS:

H.R. 2195.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Sec. 8, Clause 1, of the United States Constitution states that ''Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States.'' [Page H473]

By Mr. BARR:

H.R. 2196.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clauses 12 and 13, which gives Congress the power ''To raise and support Armies,'' and ''To provide and maintain a Navy.

By Mr. DEFAZIO:

H.R. 2197.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1, Clause 3, and Clause 18 of the Constitution.

By Mr. DEFAZIO:

H.R. 2198.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress)

By Mr. CARBAJAL:

H.R. 2199.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3 and Article I, Section 8

By Mr. WESTERMAN:

H.R. 2200.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. WESTERMAN:

H.R. 2201.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. LIPINSKI:

H.R. 2202.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. ESCOBAR:

H.R. 2203.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress shall have power . . . To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

By Mr. WALTZ:

H.R. 2204.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution, which provides Congress with the ability to enact legislation necessary and proper to effectuate its purposes in taxing and spending.

By Mr. MCKINLEY:

H.R. 2205.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

Section 8—Powers of Congress. 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. STANTON:

H.R. 2206.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Mr. KIND:

H.R. 2207.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 7

By Mr. GARAMENDI:
H.R. 2208.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution
By Mr. MEADOWS:
H.R. 2209.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3
By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut:
H.R. 2210.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution, which gives Congress the ''power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises.''
By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:
H.R. 2211.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 3
The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.
By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:
H.R. 2212.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I; Section 8; Clause 3 of the Constitution states The Congress shall have the power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.
By Mr. THOMPSON of California:
H.R. 2213.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I
By Ms. JUDY CHU of California:
H.R. 2214.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause I of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.
By Ms. JUDY CHU of California:
H.R. 2215.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8: 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.
By Mr. BURCHETT:
H.R. 2216.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article IV,
Section 3, Clause 2. The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.
By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ:
H.R. 2217.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, clause 4
Article I, Section 8, clause 3
Article I, Section 8, clauses 11–16
By Mrs. WALORSKI:
H.R. 2218.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution
By Mr. YOHO:
H.R. 2219.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. BABIN:
H.R. 2220.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3
By Mr. BILIRAKIS:
H.R. 2221.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States and Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution of the United States.
Article I, section 8 of the United State Constitution, which grants Congress the power to raise and support an Army; to provide and maintain a Navy; to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces; and provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the militia.
By Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania:
H.R. 2222.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, section 8 of the U.S. Constitution which grants Congress the power to ''lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts, and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common defense and general Welfare of the United States.''
By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:
H.R. 2223.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution
By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:
H.R. 2224.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution
By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:
H.R. 2225.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution
By Mr. BUCHANAN:
H.R. 2226.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
By Mrs. BUSTOS:
H.R. 2227.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. BUTTERFIELD:
H.R. 2228.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution, Congress has the power to collect taxes and expend funds to provide for the general welfare of the United States. Congress may also make laws that are necessary and proper for carrying into execution their powers enumerated under Article I.
By Mr. CHABOT:
H.R. 2229.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States
By Mr. CISNEROS:
H.R. 2230.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, of the U.S. Constitution
By Ms. CLARKE of New York:
H.R. 2231.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3
By Mr. CUMMINGS:
H.R. 2232.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause I of the United States Constitution related to general welfare of the United States.
By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois:
H.R. 2233.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I of the Constitution and its subsequent amendments and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.
By Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois:
H.R. 2234.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 8 of the United States Constitution; Article I, Section 9, Clause 7 of the United States Constitution; and Amendment XVI to the United States Constitution. Additionally, since the Constitution does not provide Congress with the power to provide financial support to U.S. political parties, the general repeal of the Presidential Election Campaign Fund for this purpose is consistent with the powers that are reserved to the States and to the people as expressed in Amendments IX and X to the United States Constitution. Further, Article I Section 8 defines the scope and powers of Congress and does not include this concept of taxation in furtherance of funding U.S. political parties within the expressed powers.
By Ms. DEGETTE:
H.R. 2235.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
clause 3 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.
By Mrs. DINGELL:
H.R. 2236.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The Constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. ESPAILLAT:
H.R. 2237.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 7: ''Congress shall have Power [. . .] to establish Post Offices and Post Roads.''
By Mr. ESPAILLAT:
H.R. 2238.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article One of the United States Constitution, Section 8, Clause 1
By Ms. FRANKEL:
H.R. 2239.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clauses 1, 3, and 18 of the United States Constitution, which respectively grants Congress the power to lay and collect duties and imposts, to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for the execution of those powers.
By Mr. FULCHER:
H.R. 2240.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 1 that all legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.
By Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico:
H.R. 2241.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the U.S. Constitution, which provide as follows:

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States; [. . .]—And

To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

Moreover, the Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article IV, Section 3, which provides, in relevant part, as follows:

The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

By Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico:

H.R. 2242.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the U.S. Constitution, which provide as follows:

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; [. . .]—And

To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico:

H.R. 2243.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the U.S. Constitution, which provide as follows:

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States; [. . .]—And

To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

Moreover, the Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article IV, Section 3, which provides, in relevant part, as follows:

The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular State.

By Mr. GOSAR:

H.R. 2244.

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. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 2245.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Const. art. I, sec. 8, cl. 3

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian tribes;

U.S. Const. art. IV, sec. 3, cl. 2, sen. a

The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rule and Regulations respecting the Territory of other Property belonging to the United States;

By Mr. GUEST:

H.R. 2246.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. HECK:

H.R. 2247.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana:

H.R. 2248.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18, Section 8, of Article 1 of the Constitution

By Mr. HILL of Arkansas:

H.R. 2249.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 2250.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, clause 2

By Mr. HUNTER:

H.R. 2251.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 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. KILDEE:

H.R. 2252.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. KILDEE:

H.R. 2253.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. KILDEE:

H.R. 2254.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. KILDEE:

H.R. 2255.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. KILDEE:

H.R. 2256.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. KILDEE:

H.R. 2257.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. KIND:

H.R. 2258.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to Clause I of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 1 (relating to providing for the general welfare of the United States) and Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress), and Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 (relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States).

By Mr. KING of Iowa:

H.R. 2259.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This legislation contains a clarification that is intended to limit the scope of an existing statute. As such, this bill makes specific changes to existing law in a manner that returns power to the States and to the People, in accordance with Amendment X of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. KING of Iowa:

H.R. 2260.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 Clause 4 of the Constitution

By Mr. KING of New York:

H.R. 2261.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mrs. LAWRENCE:

H.R. 2262.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Clause 18, Section 8: The Congress shall have Power . . . To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mrs. LESKO:

H.R. 2263.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. TED LIEU of California:

H.R. 2264.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mrs. LURIA:

H.R. 2265.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 5 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution.

By Mr. MEADOWS:

H.R. 2266.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States

By Ms. MENG:

H.R. 2267.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

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By Ms. MENG.

H.R. 2268.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

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By Ms. MENG:

H.R. 2269.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

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By Mr. MITCHELL:

H.R. 2270.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers.

By Ms. MOORE:

H.R. 2271.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. NADLER:

H.R. 2272.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. NADLER:

H.R. 2273.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. NEGUSE:

H.R. 2274.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 2275.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 17 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. PAPPAS:

H.R. 2276.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Article I, Section 8, clause 18; Article I, Section 8, clause 3; and Article I, Section 8, clause 14 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. POCAN:

H.R. 2277.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. ROONEY of Florida:

H.R. 2278.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 2279.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution, to provide for the general welfare and make all laws necessary and proper to carry out the powers of Congress.

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 2280.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution, to provide for the general welfare and make all laws necessary and proper to carry out the powers of Congress.

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 2281.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution, to provide for the general welfare and make all laws necessary and proper to carry out the powers of Congress.

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 2282.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution, to provide for the general welfare and make all laws necessary and proper to carry out the powers of Congress.

By Ms. SÁNCHEZ:

H.R. 2283.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Const. art. I, §7, cl. 18.

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska:

H.R. 2284.

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 Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 2285.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution.

By Ms. STEFANIK:

H.R. 2286.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. THORNBERRY:

H.R. 2287.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. TONKO:

H.R. 2288.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause I

Provides Congress with the power to ''lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises'' in order to ''provide for the . . . general Welfare of the United States.''

By Mr. VEASEY:

H.R. 2289.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. WEXTON:

H.R. 2290.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. YOUNG:

H.R. 2291.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. AMASH:

H.J. Res. 56.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 14 of the Constitution (authorizing Congress to ''make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces''). Article I, Section 8, Clause 11 of the Constitution authorizes Congress to ''declare War.'' Congress did not declare war or authorize the use of the Armed Forces in the conflict in Yemen, and this resolution takes corrective action.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 9: Mrs. LURIA, Mr. VELA, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. PHILLIPS, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. COX of California, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. TLAIB, and Mrs. LEE of Nevada.

H.R. 24: Mr. GRAVES of Georgia and Mr. ESTES.

H.R. 35: Mrs. CRAIG.

H.R. 216: Mr. NUNES and Mr. KATKO.

H.R. 218: Mr. JORDAN, Mr. COOK, and Mr. REED.

H.R. 230: Mrs. DAVIS of California.

H.R. 250: Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 303: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.

H.R. 336: Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee.

H.R. 366: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 369: Mr. GUTHRIE.

H.R. 372: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H.R. 481: Mr. GAETZ.

H.R. 500: Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. WILD, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. ROUZER, and Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 510: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.

H.R. 550: Mr. HIMES, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. BERA, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. BABIN, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. LAMALFA, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. RYAN, and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.

H.R. 569: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H.R. 587: Mr. BUDD and Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 635: Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 647: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 677: Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 693: Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, and Ms. STEFANIK.

H.R. 763: Mr. HECK.

H.R. 764: Mr. POSEY.

H.R. 816: Ms. PRESSLEY, Mrs. WALORSKI, and Mr. COOPER.

H.R. 837: Mr. WATKINS.

H.R. 864: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 884: Mr. KILMER and Mr. GIANFORTE.

H.R. 891: Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 906: Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. CASE.

H.R. 938: Mr. MCADAMS.

H.R. 945: Mr. MULLIN and Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 951: Mr. ALLRED.

H.R. 961: Ms. JACKSON LEE and Mr. RASKIN.

H.R. 965: Mr. MCADAMS and Mr. SCHRADER.

H.R. 987: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H.R. 1006: Mr. COLE.

H.R. 1035: Mr. DOGGETT.

H.R. 1044: Mr. BAIRD and Mr. BROWN of Maryland.

H.R. 1049: Mr. RIGGLEMAN, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. CASE, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, and Mr. CÁRDENAS.

H.R. 1086: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H.R. 1094: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 1096: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H.R. 1128: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas and Mr. ARMSTRONG.

H.R. 1135: Mr. ARMSTRONG.

H.R. 1139: Ms. SHERRILL.

H.R. 1140: Mr. COX of California, Mr. HIMES, Mr. HECK, and Ms. MENG.

H.R. 1175: Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. AMODEI, and Mr. DESJARLAIS.

H.R. 1185: Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 1195: Mr. KIM, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, and Mr. BRINDISI.

H.R. 1199: Mr. BANKS.

H.R. 1200: Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Mr. CASE, and Ms. ESCOBAR.

H.R. 1210: Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 1228: Mr. COLLINS of Georgia and Mr. MALINOWSKI.

H.R. 1236: Mr. PETERS, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. CRIST.

H.R. 1237: Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. SIRES, and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H.R. 1238: Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana.
H.R. 1328: Mrs. LURIA and Mrs. CRAIG.
H.R. 1336: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 1337: Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 1360: Mr. MEADOWS.
H.R. 1370: Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 1379: Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. RUIZ, and Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.
H.R. 1384: Mr. CUMMINGS.
H.R. 1411: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 1417: Mr. HIMES, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, and Ms. BASS.
H.R. 1421: Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 1423: Ms. SHERRILL.
H.R. 1434: Mr. BAIRD, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, and Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee.
H.R. 1454: Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. EVANS, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. RUSH, and Ms. SPEIER.
H.R. 1508: Mr. PENCE.
H.R. 1576: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1579: Mr. KILMER and Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 1595: Mr. NORCROSS and Mr. UPTON.
H.R. 1622: Mrs. LEE of Nevada.
H.R. 1629: Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 1673: Mr. TIPTON and Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.
H.R. 1679: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1680: Mr. PETERS, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. CHABOT, and Mr. BAIRD.
H.R. 1702: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.
H.R. 1709: Mr. FOSTER, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RYAN, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. COOPER, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. MOORE, Mr. NEAL, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. RUSH, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Mr. PANETTA.
H.R. 1716: Mr. GOLDEN, Mr. CRIST, and Ms. GABBARD.
H.R. 1753: Mr. SCHWEIKERT.
H.R. 1757: Mr. LIPINSKI.
H.R. 1770: Mr. SENSENBRENNER.
H.R. 1776: Mr. DEFAZIO and Mr. WATKINS.
H.R. 1826: Mr. CORREA and Mr. GAETZ.
H.R. 1830: Ms. BASS, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. LAMB, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. PAPPAS, and Mr. SCHNEIDER.
H.R. 1832: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.
H.R. 1837: Mr. STAUBER, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, and Mr. GROTHMAN.
H.R. 1846: Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Ms. SHALALA.
H.R. 1857: Mr. KENNEDY.
H.R. 1864: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H.R. 1865: Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. WATKINS, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. LONG, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mr. KING of Iowa.
H.R. 1868: Ms. MCCOLLUM and Ms. SCANLON.
H.R. 1878: Ms. SCANLON, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. NORTON, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. WELCH, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. MOORE, and Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 1911: Ms. HOULAHAN.
H.R. 1917: Mr. MALINOWSKI.
H.R. 1959: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.
H.R. 1992: Mr. PAPPAS and Mr. FLEISCHMANN.
H.R. 2002: Mr. WATKINS, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. HOLDING.
H.R. 2009: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 2010: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 2012: Mr. COHEN, Mr. PERLMUTTER, and Mr. CROW.
H.R. 2036: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. MOORE, and Mr. CÁRDENAS.
H.R. 2039: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H.R. 2050: Mr. RASKIN and Mr. MALINOWSKI.
H.R. 2060: Mr. HUDSON.
H.R. 2067: Mr. MCCAUL.
H.R. 2070: Mr. RYAN.
H.R. 2075: Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. COX of California, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. DELGADO, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 2076: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Mr. BANKS.
H.R. 2089: Mr. GUTHRIE, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota.
H.R. 2137: Mr. PAPPAS.
H.R. 2147: Mr. LUJÁN.
H.R. 2148: Ms. NORTON, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. MEEKS, and Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 2180: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 2181: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H.R. 2186: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.J. Res. 38: Mr. PHILLIPS.
H. Con. Res. 27: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.
H. Res. 23: Mr. LUETKEMEYER and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
H. Res. 33: Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania and Ms. SCHRIER.
H. Res. 60: Mr. LYNCH and Mr. KIND.
H. Res. 149: Mr. WITTMAN.
H. Res. 190: Mr. VISCLOSKY.
H. Res. 231: Ms. FUDGE.
H. Res. 246: Mr. BOST, Mr. SOTO, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. HIMES, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. BACON, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
H. Res. 251: Mr. RASKIN and Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.
H. Res. 254: Mr. WATKINS.
H. Res. 255: Mr. CALVERT, Mr. BUCK, and Mr. SENSENBRENNER.
H. Res. 289: Ms. MOORE and Ms. HAALAND.
H. Res. 296: Mr. VISCLOSKY, Mr. FORTENBERRY, and Mr. KENNEDY.

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Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 165 WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2019 No. 62

Senate

The Senate met at 9:45 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARSHA BLACKBURN, a Senator from the State of Tennessee.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

God of grace and glory, we bless Your Holy Name. Give us a hunger and thirst for Your righteousness. Lord, we confess that we often fall short of Your high standards for living. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Continue to bless our Senators. Give them the fulfillment that comes from knowing they are doing Your will. Protect them from dangers as You guide them through the myriad challenges they must face to keep this Nation strong. Work through them to fulfill Your purposes for our Nation and world.

We pray in Your Holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer 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.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 10, 2019.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARSHA BLACKBURN, a Senator from the State of Tennessee, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. BLACKBURN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak to the Senate for 1 minute as in morning business.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLINTON INVESTIGATION

Mr. GRASSLEY. On Monday, I spoke about the Clinton investigation, and I want to reiterate one very serious issue. The FBI apparently had highly classified information potentially relevant to the Clinton investigation in its possession.

The FBI drafted a memo in May of 2016 to get access to the information. That memo said review of the information was necessary to complete the investigation. Sadly, that memo was never sent.

How could the FBI finish the investigation of the Clintons if they never got access to all of the potentially relevant information?

Congress needs to know what happened in that instance.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 1585

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I understand there is a bill at the desk due a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1585) to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, and for other purposes.

Mr. MCCONNELL. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, the Senate continues to build on last week's progress in restoring our normal tradition regarding lower level nominations. We are moving several well-qualified nominees more promptly through floor consideration. We are clearing the considerable backlog of those who had been mired for months in our Democratic colleagues' across-the-board obstruction campaign.

Make no mistake, there is still a very long way to go. There are still too many vacancies on the President's team. There are still too many would-be public servants waiting for partisan barriers to fall. But this body should be proud of the progress we are already making and the healthier precedent we are setting for the future.

Yesterday the Senate voted to confirm both Daniel Domenico, the President's choice to serve as U.S. District Judge for the District of Colorado, and Patrick Wyrick to be a district judge in the Western District of Oklahoma.

Today we will turn our attention to Cheryl Stanton's nomination to lead the Labor Department's Wage and Hour Division. It has been 1 year, 7 months, and 5 days since Ms. Stanton's nomination arrived in the Senate. In that time the nomination has been favorably reported by the HELP Committee not once, not twice, but three

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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times—three times through committee for this graduate of Williams College and the University of Chicago Law School and two times sent back to the President for the former executive director of the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce. Well, hopefully the third time will be the charm, and we can finally do the prudent thing on the Senate floor. I hope each of my colleagues will join me in support of the Stanton nomination later this week.

Later this week, as I noted yesterday, we will finish with the nomination of David Bernhardt to join President Trump's Cabinet as Secretary of the Interior. Speaking of procedures coming in threes, this would be the third time Mr. Bernhardt will have been confirmed by the Senate. He served previously as the Department's Solicitor and as its Deputy Secretary. According to the American Farm Bureau Federation, his ''proven leadership'' in these roles ''has helped restore the multiple use of America's public lands.''

They are not alone. Over his tenure, Mr. Bernhardt developed a reputation among sportsmen, conservation groups, and western Native American Tribes as a strong leader and partner in their efforts. So once again, I hope each of my colleagues will join me in voting to confirm David Bernhardt later this week.

MEDICARE

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, on a completely different matter, for some time now, my colleagues and I have been speaking out about the Democrats' parade of fantastical new proposals—plans to spend unprecedented sums of Americans' money in order to seize unprecedented control over Americans' lives.

Just a few weeks ago, the Senate voted on the so-called Green New Deal. It was Washington Democrats' plan to power down the U.S. economy and have the Federal Government intrude on basically every economic transaction and personal life choice in radically unprecedented ways. The specifics of the proposal, limited as they were, painted enough of a picture for outside experts to roughly estimate the price tag at as much as $93 trillion, which is more money than the Federal Government has spent in its entire history, in exchange for the systematic dismantling of American prosperity.

It advocated for the abolition of the most affordable and plentiful domestic energy resources available to American families and a hog-tied American economy that our competitors would leave in the dust.

So it should come as no surprise that for the sequel we see and hear that Senate Democrats may soon officially introduce their proposed Washington, DC, takeover of health insurance—the plan I call ''Medicare for None.''

It is a fitting name for a proposal that would gut the Medicare Program as American seniors know it, reuse the label on a new, government-run, one-size-fits-all arrangement, and remove 180 million Americans from the private insurance they have chosen in order to funnel them into a system without choice.

What is especially ironic is that my Democratic colleagues are choosing to agitate for this pivot toward socialism during this particularly important economic period—at this particular moment, with more job openings than Americans looking for work for the first time since recordkeeping started, when we have seen unemployment reach a 49-year low and wages growing faster than they have in a decade. It is the kind of economy where a single mom in Mississippi says: ''It's amazing that I'm getting paid almost $20 an hour to learn how to weld.''

It is the kind of economy where garage door installers in Nevada say they are literally afraid to let potential new hires walk out the door because American workers are in such high demand.

Let's remember that this transformation is being helped along by Senate Republican ideas and policies that are the polar opposite—totally opposite—of what our Democratic friends are now calling for.

Here is how Republican pro-growth and pro-opportunity policies helped us get where we are: by encouraging job creators to invest here at home instead of penalizing success; by recognizing that working families know best how to spend their paychecks, not Washington; and by creating conditions for an economic surge that touches every corner of our country.

Now all of America is reaping the benefits. This isn't like the last administration, where 75 percent of new jobs and 90 percent of the population growth flowed into the very largest metropolitan areas. This time it is an all-American comeback, and all kinds of communities are benefiting from more jobs, more opportunities, and more growth in pay.

Monday is tax day. It is not exactly a time many of us look forward to, but this year marks the first time Americans are filing under the new Republican tax reform law that has helped them keep more of their paychecks and has helped to create the outstanding economy we see today. Democrats may be working overtime to bring this bright chapter to an end, but over here, on this side of the aisle, we will keep making sure that this is still just the beginning of these brighter days for the American people.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Resumed

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Cheryl Marie Stanton, of South Carolina, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor.

Mr. McCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAMER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF JOHN P. ABIZAID

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise in strong support of General Abizaid's confirmation to be our Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It took this administration nearly 2 years to even nominate someone to this critical position, and, unfortunately, we have seen the results of the absence of serious, experienced U.S. leadership.

I was pleased that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee expeditiously moved his nomination. In the past 2 years, we have seen Saudi leadership take actions that have seriously strained the U.S.-Saudi relationship and that have run fundamentally counter to basic international norms.

Saudi Arabia has detained and reportedly tortured members of its own royal family and has effectively abducted the Lebanese Prime Minister. In Yemen, the Crown Prince's coalition has led an offensive that has been responsible not just for breeding the world's worst humanitarian crisis but also for potentially opening the door to more malign Iranian influence. To this day, we still also seek accountability for the brutal murder of American resident and journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

With the White House's having conducted freelance diplomacy, the American people have had little faith that there has been serious pressure on the Saudi leadership for it to correct course. Worse, we continue to learn that the administration appears to be rewarding the Kingdom with secret side deals in support of its nuclear program—far outside the scope of legally prescribed processes.

Amidst all of this, we must find a way to get the U.S.-Saudi relationship back on course, for we do continue to share some common challenges and interests. Yet U.S. alliances are strongest with partners with whom we share values and with whom we can have honest conversations.

General Abizaid faces a tall challenge, but I believe he is up to the job. He has the experience and leadership necessary to both manage a large mission and get the currently fraught relationship with Saudi Arabia back on track in a way that advances our security interests and stays true to our ideals.

I urge my colleagues to support General Abizaid's confirmation. His leadership, deep regional expertise, management skills, knowledge of Arabic, and experience in having served in conflict areas will make him an effective U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

CONFIRMATION OF PATRICK R. WYRICK

Mr. President, I want to spend a moment on the issue of judicial nominees—specifically the President's nominee for the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma, Mr. Patrick Wyrick.

Mr. Wyrick's record suggests he is little more than a rightwing crusader in the war against the reproductive rights of women. In 2014, he spearheaded an amicus in the Sebelius v. Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc., case, arguing that corporations' religious rights were violated by the Affordable Care Act's requirement that employers' health plans cover birth control. By a 5-to-4 margin, the Supreme Court agreed. Likewise, while representing Oklahoma in Pruitt v. Nova Health Systems, Mr. Wyrick defended a law mandating that women who seek abortions first submit to having ultrasounds. Fortunately, the Oklahoma Supreme Court struck down that law.

I could go on, but the bottom line is that Mr. Wyrick embodies President Trump's pledge to only nominate judges who are committed to rolling back reproductive rights even if they are seriously unqualified for lifetime appointments.

Let's be honest about why the Republicans seek to confirm these judicial nominations at record speed. After being punished at the polls for their assault on affordable healthcare, they want our courts to do their dirty work for them. How convenient it is that the Republicans can confirm judges who have hostile records on healthcare even as they distance themselves from the Trump administration's reckless decision to declare the entire Affordable Care Act as unconstitutional, including the law's protections for patients with preexisting conditions, the tax credits that help families to afford premiums, the expansion of Medicaid, and so much more.

I am tired of watching the majority stack our courts in favor of wealthy special interests even as they know full well that Americans overwhelmingly oppose their morally bankrupt agenda. Once again, Americans oppose letting health insurance companies discriminate against people with preexisting conditions. They oppose their plan to end Medicaid as we know it and their trillion-dollar tax cuts for big corporations. They oppose this President's assault on the rights of consumers, workers, students, and women.

Democracy is supposed to be a battle of ideas, but when it comes to healthcare or student loan debt or climate change, the Republican Party does not have any. When you can't win on the merits, what do you do? You tip the scales of justice in your favor. Well, I, for one, will not stay silent. I will continue to speak out against unqualified nominees like Patrick Wyrick, and I will continue to vote against judges whose views are grossly out of step with the views of the vast majority of Americans on everything from the environment to women's reproductive rights to healthcare for all.

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. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

TAX REFORM

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, tax day is not anyone's favorite day, but thanks to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, millions of American families are facing a less painful tax bill this year. They are also seeing a lot of economic opportunity.

When Republicans took office after President Trump's election, we were determined to make things better for American families. Under the Obama administration, the economy had stagnated, wages barely grew, job growth was weak, business investment growth was low.

Republicans knew that if we wanted to make life better for families, we had to turn that around. American families can't thrive if the economy isn't thriving. You need a strong, growing economy to give Americans access to good wages, good jobs, and real opportunities.

So we got right to work. We repealed burdensome regulations that were acting as a drag on economic growth, and we passed a comprehensive reform of our Nation's outdated Tax Code.

Why the Tax Code? Well, the Tax Code has a huge effect on our economy. A small business owner facing a huge tax bill is unlikely to be able to expand her business or to hire a new employee. In fact, if her tax burden is heavy enough, she may not even be able to keep her business open.

Similarly, a large business is going to find it pretty hard to create jobs or improve benefits for employees if it is struggling to stay competitive against foreign businesses that are paying much less in taxes.

Prior to the passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, our Tax Code was not helping our economy. In fact, it was doing the opposite, and so we made reforming our Tax Code a priority.

Our goal with the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act was twofold: put more money in Americans' pockets immediately and get the economy going again to give Americans access to good jobs, good wages, and opportunities for the long term, and that is exactly what we did. To put more money in Americans' pockets right away, we cut tax rates for American families, doubled the child tax credit, and nearly doubled the standard deduction, and now families are seeing the effects.

The liberal Tax Policy Center reports that under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, 90 percent of middle-class families are seeing a tax cut. For 2018, the typical family of four saw a tax break of more than $2,000. That is more money every month to put toward a family vacation, a home or car repair, or a kid's braces, or to tuck away in savings for a rainy day.

That is not all. As I said earlier, families aren't just seeing a lower tax bill; they are also seeing more economic opportunity thanks to the economic growth spurred by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act lowered tax rates across the board for owners of small- and medium-size businesses, farms, and ranches. It lowered our Nation's massive corporate tax rate, which up until January 1 of last year was the highest corporate tax rate in the developed world. It expanded business owners' ability to recover the cost of investments they make in their businesses, which frees up cash they can reinvest in their operations and in their workers. It brought the U.S. international tax system into the 21st century so that American businesses are not operating at a competitive disadvantage relative to their foreign counterparts.

Those measures have done exactly what they were supposed to do: Get our economy going again. Economic growth is up. Job creation is up. Wages are up. Personal income is up. Business investment is up. Unemployment is down.

Since tax reform was enacted, job growth has averaged 215,000 jobs per month. That is almost twice—almost twice—the monthly average during the Obama administration.

In 2018, for the first time ever, the number of jobs outnumbered the number of jobseekers; 2018 was the first time ever.

The Department of Labor reports that the number of jobs available has now exceeded the number of those looking for work for 12 straight months. Unemployment has now been at or below 4 percent for 13 months. In the last week of March, the number of jobless claims hit its lowest level in 50 years.

U.S. manufacturing, which saw thousands of job losses during the Obama years, is booming. Since tax reform was passed 15 months ago, the manufacturing industry has added thousands of jobs.

Wages have been growing at or above 3 percent for 8 straight months. Since

wages are growing faster than inflation, that is translating to a real increase in purchasing power for American consumers.

Business investment is up. Since the passage of tax reform, business investment growth has averaged 7 percent, almost twice—almost twice—what it averaged during the Obama administration.

What do all of these numbers mean? They mean more and better jobs for jobseekers. They mean more money in your paycheck to spend or save for the future. They mean more and better opportunities to advance in your career.

Thanks to tax reform, more families can afford to pay that orthodontist bill and still save some money for a family vacation. More families can afford to cover that unexpected car repair or plumber's bill. More families can afford to put a little extra away each month for the kids' education or for their retirement.

I am proud that tax reform is making life better for American families. Republicans will continue working to secure the gains that we have made for the long term and to expand opportunities for hard-working Americans even further.

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. SCHUMER. Mr. 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 Democratic leader is recognized.

NOMINATION OF DAVID BERNHARDT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, later this week the Senate will vote on the confirmation of David Bernhardt, a longtime lobbyist, to the position of Interior Secretary. An oil and gas lobbyist will be entrusted with our sacred—sacred—inheritance, the great lands of America.

I urge Senators to oppose this nomination.

The Department of the Interior is the Agency entrusted with protecting our Nation's public lands, our water supplies, our wildlife, and our energy resources. It grapples directly with some of the biggest questions our country faces: how to respond to climate change, how to protect endangered species, and how to care for our precious natural resources. Yet to lead our Interior Department, President Trump has nominated Mr. Bernhardt, an oil and gas lobbyist who has made a career harming the environment, subverting environmental protections, and helping polluters sidestep Federal regulation.

As former Secretary Zinke's deputy, he has paved the way for even more polluters to run rampant without accountability. Under his watch, the Department of the Interior has already opened a colossal 17 million acres of Federal land for oil and gas leases, generating millions in revenue for energy companies, all while Bernhardt recklessly managed our national parks during the government shutdown.

I am especially troubled this morning because POLITICO reported that under Mr. Bernhardt's watch, the Department of the Interior might even greenlight offshore drilling off the coasts of Florida—a prospect both parties in the State say they oppose. This should be a wake-up call to my colleagues all up and down the coast—Atlantic, Pacific, and the gulf. If they can't find a reason to oppose this nominee based on the other serious and troubling issues that have been raised, maybe this is reason enough for them.

It is hard to imagine someone whose background is so at odds with the Department's mission as Bernhardt's. For all his talk of draining the swamp, President Trump wants to add yet another Washington swamp creature lobbyist to his Cabinet.

By the way, our resources—our oil and gas resources—are large. The motivation here to spoil public lands for oil and gas drilling—it is the power of the oil companies. It has nothing to do with the plan for natural resources. Bernhardt is an exemplary example of the power of these oil companies.

Gravely troubling is the long list of conflicting interests that Bernhardt brings to Trump's Cabinet. Up to 20 of his former clients have lobbied the Department of the Interior since his arrival, and the New York Times reported last week that he very likely has been less than forthcoming about when he stopped lobbying. No other Cabinet-level nominee in the Trump era has so many conflicts of interest, and that is a low bar. It is a distinction no one should be proud to hold.

Worst of all, Bernhardt is a hardened enemy of climate science. If you are a lobbyist for oil and gas companies, you would say that climate change isn't real too. The Washington Post reported he attended a session of administration officials that ''debated how best to establish a group of researchers that could scrutinize recent federal climate reports.'' Translation: Bernhardt is actively working to set up the White House's fake panel to deny basic science.

I have already introduced legislation to prohibit any funding from going to this fake climate panel, but knowing Mr. Bernhardt's role in setting it up should send shivers down the spines of every American who is worried about the impact of our changing climate on their families, their farms, and future generations.

We cannot entrust our public lands to someone known to wage a campaign of censorship against facts and reason. Now, later today, I am going to be able to meet with Mr. Bernhardt to discuss his qualifications. I am letting him know now that I will ask him the same three questions I have asked my Republican colleagues in this Chamber. One, does Mr. Bernhardt agree that climate change is real; two, does he agree it is a product of human action; and three, should the Federal Government have a role in combating its effects? His record suggests his answer to all these questions is no, but let's see what he says today.

Caring for our planet and being good stewards of our natural resources are the most important responsibilities we owe to future generations, so I am gravely concerned about Bernhardt's nomination to the Department of the Interior, and I urge my colleagues to vote no on his confirmation.

One final point. It still amazes me that Donald Trump campaigns on cleaning up the swamp, and he does exactly the opposite when in office. An oil and gas lobbyist is head of the Department of the Interior? My God, that is an example of the swampiness of Washington, if there ever was one. When are Donald Trump's supporters going to understand this; that what he promised them, in so many different instances, he is not delivering. It is befuddling. It is a sign of the weakness of our democracy that someone can walk into the Presidency promising so many things and then just immediately do the opposite and still a large chunk of Americans say they support him. It is amazing to me.

H.R. 268

Mr. President, for months, American citizens have been reeling from natural disasters and are in desperate need of Federal aid. Parenthetically, I remind Mr. Bernhardt that a lot of these disasters, scientists believe, are because the climate is warmer, and the weather is changing, but rather than work with us to provide the much needed aid to large chunks of America, our Republican colleagues have once again decided to follow President Trump and refuse to compromise. They are so afraid of him that even when he proposes something they know is wrong and irrational, they do a 180-degree hairpin turn and support what he is doing.

Now, that would be just politics, except millions are awaiting aid and need help. Their homes, their farms, their offices, and their factories are underwater, literally, in a lot of places still.

Just yesterday, House Democrats offered a solution. We said: Let's provide disaster relief not to some Americans but to all Americans struggling to recover and rebuild from natural disasters.

Their new proposal that the House offered includes an additional $3 billion—this is House Democrats, not Senate Democrats, by the way. Their new proposal includes an additional $3 billion to address urgent needs following the floods in the Midwest and the tornadoes in the South. This plus-up includes $1.5 billion for the Army Corps of Engineers to support flood risk reduction so crucial in the Missouri River Valley, $1 billion in CDBG for long-term recovery needs, and $500 million in agriculture funding to help

the farmers and ranchers rehabilitate farmland damaged by natural disasters and replace some of the farm animals that have been lost.

Yesterday's House bill comes in addition to the proposals Senator LEAHY and I offered last week—and it is similar to them—and in addition to the work Senator LEAHY did last month. So, again and again, Democrats presented option after option for disaster funding that helps the Midwest, helps the coasts, helps the South, and helps Puerto Rico and other territories. None of our offers are either-or, help this but not that.

Enough excuses from our Republican colleagues. We have had enough of the slow playing, but, more important, the people who need this help have had enough. The bottom line is very simple. The aid we seek is what Americans have always done. When there is a disaster, we all come together and aid those areas in a disaster because we know when a huge natural disaster hits from God, an area can't deal with it on their own. They don't have the resources or the ability, and they are, many times, in trouble because of the disaster itself.

We say: Come to the aid, but all of a sudden Donald Trump goes into the Republican lunch a week and a half ago and says: I don't want any aid for Puerto Rico. He falsely claims they have gotten $91 billion—not true—and then all our Republican friends go along.

Well, we are not. The House will not. Senate Democrats will not. Plain and simple, we don't believe you should pick and choose. Why did President Trump single out Puerto Rico, which are American citizens like everybody else? A lot of theories, but regardless of what your theory is, that is not the way to govern as President, and, frankly, it is not the way we should govern as Senators. It is bewildering that our Republican colleagues have caved to President Trump's—what can we call it—temper tantrum, even though they are well aware of the problems and were ready to help Puerto Rico before he threw that temper tantrum.

Some say: Well, Puerto Rico is getting a little money. They are getting food stamp aid.

Well, great. Then let's just give food stamp aid to everybody else. Let's give it to everyone else. Now, what about all the farms that are underwater? What about all the homes that are flooded and needing help? If you give food stamp aid, that doesn't help them.

So let's be fair. Let's treat each area the same. Let's do what we have done in the American tradition: Come together, when there is a disaster, to help Americans. Let's not be so afraid of Donald Trump that when you know he is wrong, you just go along.

The idea that Puerto Rico should be treated differently from the rest of America is insulting. It is against our American values and a betrayal of the promise to look after all American citizens, not because of their politics and not because of what their last names might sound like; as American citizens, we come together during times of need.

Democrats will not yield in our responsibility to all American citizens, and I tell that to all my friends from the farm States, even those who voted against aid to New York when we had our hurricane. I never even considered not voting for aid to any other place in the country. I always have.

I say to my friends: Let's treat everyone fairly, and we can get the much needed disaster aid out there quickly.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, finally, on chaos. Over the past 12 days, the President has sought to fix his broken policies by breaking down his administration piece by piece. Even in an administration where we have become used to seeing extremism and illogic rule the day, a government of whim, a government of erraticism, a government of temper tantrums, the last few days has reached a new low in dysfunction, and all of this has a simple root cause. Every time President Trump faces a new challenge, he just keeps pointing his fingers and blaming others—blame her, blame him, fire this one, and fire that one.

Mr. President—President Trump, you are not a TV host. You are the President. Work to fix it. Don't keep firing. Don't keep changing policies from one day to the next and then abandoning them. Roll up your sleeves, bring in the experts, and work to fix it. You are the President—but the President seems to much more enjoy blaming people, whether they are in his own administration, people of our political party, and everyone else in between, than actually solving the problems.

He says he wants to keep Americans safe, but President Trump fires the DHS Secretary and Secret Service Director on a whim and provokes shutdowns that cripple our airports and our ports of entry. The President says he wants to strengthen America's standing in the world. Yet no President has done more to undermine the work of diplomacy and the State Department than Donald Trump. He says Republicans will be the party of healthcare. Yet he sues to devastate our healthcare system, with no plans to replace it.

In this administration, chaos reigns, and the source of the chaos comes only from one place, the President of the United States and his erratic, vacillating, often vindictive attitudes toward personnel and policies. When will President Trump learn that the biggest problem is not the personnel executing his agenda; it is the extreme irrational policies that are abhorrent to American values and sometimes against the law, but he insists on it. Every day that President Trump treats the most consequential job in the world like it is some kind of reality TV show is another day that America's security, stability, and long-term prosperity is further in peril.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). The clerk will call the roll.

The 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.

DEBBIE SMITH ACT

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I would like to start by sharing a story about one of my personal heroes, Debbie Smith. Debbie Smith is living proof that one person can change the world if they have the courage to tell their story and fight for justice.

In 1989, Debbie was at home doing laundry. Her husband Rob, a police officer, was asleep upstairs after working a night shift.

Suddenly a masked man entered her home and threatened to kill her if she screamed. He blindfolded and abducted Debbie and took her outside to a wooded area behind her home, where he robbed and repeatedly raped her. The man threatened her over and over, saying: Remember, I know where you live, and I will come back to kill you if you tell anyone.

After he finally left, Debbie ran upstairs to tell her husband. She begged him not to make her go to the police. But he, as a police officer, insisted that she report the crime and go to the emergency room for a sexual assault forensic exam, sometimes called a rape kit exam.

Debbie did go for that examination and did report the crime. But for Debbie and millions of other survivors there are no immediate answers. Because of the nationwide backlog of untested rape kits, it would be years before she was able to identify her assailant and find any sort of peace.

Although the exact numbers are hard to estimate, experts believe that hundreds of thousands of rape kits remain untested in the United States, and, of course, each one of them represents a unique story of a sexual assault victim and holds the key to apprehending a violent criminal.

Waiting for that evidence to be tested can be excruciating. Debbie said that fear took over her life. She was haunted by the man's voice threatening to kill her. She was terrified for herself and her family, and she even became suicidal for a time.

It wasn't until 6½ years later that Debbie finally got the answer she had been looking for when a DNA cold hit revealed the identity of her rapist. She later said in an interview that DNA gave her back her life.

Debbie chose to harness her pain and to use it to save others from living through years of uncertainty as she did. She has become the fiercest advocate in the Nation for eliminating the rape kit backlog. She has devoted her life to making a difference for victims of sexual violence.

The aptly named Debbie Smith Act was originally signed into law in 2004 to provide State and local crime labs the resources they need to end the backlog of untested DNA evidence from unsolved crimes through additional funding and increased capacity. Under this law, Congress has provided more than $1 billion since then in vital funding to forensic labs for analyzing crime scene DNA evidence, uploading the results into the CODIS database, which is what happens to the test after it is completed, and identifying violent fugitives and taking these violent criminals off the street.

Not only does this sort of testing provide relief for victims like Debbie and justice for their attackers, but the evidence is also effective in assisting investigations for other crimes. This is important because violent offenders will often commit many different types of crimes in many different jurisdictions. For example, if a criminal commits a burglary in one State, DNA evidence from that burglary case can be used later to connect this offender to an unsolved rape case in another State.

The States, thankfully, are following suit. Texas, I am proud to say, has led the Nation in passing mandatory rape kit testing laws, conducting audits of the backlog, and using Debbie Smith funds to analyze untested sexual assault evidence. I am proud to report that over the last 7 years we have reduced our statewide rape kit backlog from more than 20,000 to just over 2,000. This is an astounding achievement, and thankfully it is being replicated all across the Nation because of this important legislation and because of the courage of one woman, Debbie Smith.

By ensuring the Debbie Smith Act funds can be used to analyze evidence from all types of crime scenes, we can help forensic labs address their systemic backlogs and holistically target the cycle of violence. The Debbie Smith Act of 2019 will reauthorize the Debbie Smith Act program to continue the testing of DNA evidence from unsolved crimes nationwide, including rape kits. It will also reauthorize DNA training and education for law enforcement, correctional personnel, and court officers, as well as forensic nurses who take this DNA evidence during these rape kit collections to make sure that all of them are prepared to gather the evidence and to test it. Since 2005, Debbie Smith Act funding has led to the creation of 43 percent of all forensic CODIS profiles. Again, this is the FBI database, where the rape kit information can be entered to see if it matches previously entered DNA profiles.

Let me say that again. Since 2005, Debbie Smith Act funding has led to the creation of 43 percent of all forensic CODIS profiles as well as 20 percent of all offender samples in CODIS.

In total, Debbie Smith DNA grants are responsible for 45 percent of all matches made in CODIS, which is truly remarkable. Reauthorizing this legislation once again is a top priority for me as we work to continue chipping away at the nationwide rape kit backlog and provide these victims with the answers and relief they need.

Over the years, I have had the pleasure of meeting and working with Debbie several times, and we have been fortunate to have her share her perspective before the Judiciary Committee on multiple occasions.

I have also worked with two other inspiring victims from Texas—Lavinia Masters and Carol Bart, who, like Debbie, had the courage to come forward and talk about a very difficult event in their lives, but to use their pain as a way to help others. Lavinia and Carol have also lent their voices in advocating for reforms to reduce the rape kit backlog.

I am grateful to these and countless other survivors who bravely share their stories and ideas as we work together to eliminate the backlog once and for all. I hope the Debbie Smith Act of 2019 will soon be reported out of the Judiciary Committee and will quickly make its way to the Senate floor, pass in Congress, and make its way to the President for his signature without delay.

H.R. 1585

Mr. President, on another matter, earlier this week the House passed a bill to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act. Our Democratic colleagues keep saying how important it is to quickly pass this legislation to restore funding to VAWA as it is known, but I think it is important to back up for a moment and remember why that funding lapsed in the first place.

Earlier this year our Democratic colleagues allowed VAWA to get caught in the crosshairs of our funding debates, and they insisted we should not fund this vital program because it was overdue for updates. Their argument was this: We want to reform or update VAWA, so we are going to let funding for it lapse. It just didn't make any sense at all.

It is no secret that folks on the other side of the aisle think it is time we made some changes to the program. It is something I support, but we don't need to let the funding lapse in order to do it.

This is an issue that our friend and colleague Senator ERNST continues to champion here in the Senate. But the approach taken by our Democratic colleagues to get those changes is a headscratcher, to say the least.

There were, as I see it, two options on how to solve the problem. One was to provide an extension for the previous funding to the end of the fiscal year. That would have allowed us to work on the long-term reauthorization under the regular processes in the Senate, which, in my experience, is always the preferred action to take.

The second option our Democratic colleagues chose was to do nothing and let this important legislation expire without a plan to replace it. For whatever reason, that was the option that Democrats in the House chose.

In the nearly 2 months since, we have tried to negotiate a short-term extension to fund these vital programs. As recently as last week, our Democratic colleagues had a chance to support the restoration of funding while our negotiations continued.

The supplemental appropriations bill introduced by Senator SHELBY would have funded the Violence Against Women Act through the end of the fiscal year—again, giving us time to negotiate changes in the law that Democrats obviously want. But our Democratic colleagues simply refuse to support even a procedural vote that would have allowed us to get on the bill and debate it and then amend it. It seems increasingly clear to me that rather than providing the funding for victims of sexual assault and other violence, rather than finding solutions, what is happening here is that politics is creeping in and rearing its ugly head.

It is clear to me that this isn't about finding a solution; this is about political game playing. Now, rather than going through regular order to create a long-term reauthorization that includes feedback from both sides, House Democrats are trying to jam a one-sided piece of legislation through the House and then through the Senate. I think this is very shameful.

Our Democratic colleagues first refused to fund the Violence Against Women Act. They allowed it to expire, and now they are using victims of violence as leverage to push through their rushed, one-sided piece of legislation. Throwing a temper tantrum and holding the Violence Against Women's Act hostage until you get what you want is not a responsible way to legislate.

I would encourage our colleagues across the aisle to put politics aside for just a moment and work with us to pass a short-term extension for VAWA while we use the regular order to discuss long-term solutions.

There is a good way and a bad way to do this, and, unfortunately, our Democratic colleagues have chosen the bad way, but we would ask them to reconsider and work with us—not for us, but for the victims of domestic violence who are suffering as a result of their game playing.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

All time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Stanton nomination?

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 70 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Alexander	Fischer	Perdue
Barrasso	Gardner	Portman
Blackburn	Graham	Risch
Blunt	Grassley	Roberts
Boozman	Hawley	Romney
Braun	Hoeven	Rounds
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Capito	Inhofe	Sasse
Cassidy	Isakson	Scott (FL)
Collins	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Shelby
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Crapo	McConnell	Tillis
Cruz	McSally	Toomey
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Enzi	Murkowski	Young
Ernst	Paul	

NAYS—45

Baldwin	Hassan	Rosen
Bennet	Heinrich	Sanders
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schatz
Brown	Jones	Schumer
Cantwell	Kaine	Shaheen
Cardin	King	Sinema
Carper	Leahy	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Coons	Markey	Tester
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Udall
Duckworth	Merkley	Van Hollen
Durbin	Murphy	Warner
Feinstein	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Peters	Whitehouse
Harris	Reed	Wyden

NOT VOTING—2

Booker	Klobuchar

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table. The President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the Abizaid nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of John P. Abizaid, of Nevada, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Abizaid nomination?

Mr. RISCH. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) is necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 92, nays 7, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 71 Ex.]

YEAS—92

Alexander	Fischer	Peters
Baldwin	Gardner	Portman
Barrasso	Graham	Reed
Bennet	Grassley	Risch
Blackburn	Hassan	Roberts
Blumenthal	Hawley	Romney
Blunt	Heinrich	Rosen
Boozman	Hirono	Rounds
Braun	Hoeven	Rubio
Brown	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Burr	Inhofe	Schatz
Cantwell	Isakson	Schumer
Capito	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cardin	Jones	Scott (SC)
Carper	Kaine	Shaheen
Casey	Kennedy	Shelby
Cassidy	King	Sinema
Collins	Klobuchar	Smith
Coons	Lankford	Stabenow
Cornyn	Leahy	Sullivan
Cortez Masto	Lee	Tester
Cotton	Manchin	Thune
Cramer	McConnell	Tillis
Crapo	McSally	Toomey
Cruz	Menendez	Van Hollen
Daines	Moran	Warner
Duckworth	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Durbin	Murphy	Wicker
Enzi	Murray	Wyden
Ernst	Paul	Young
Feinstein	Perdue	

NAYS—7

Gillibrand	Merkley	Warren
Harris	Sanders	
Markey	Udall	

NOT VOTING—1

Booker

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 senior assistant 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 Holly A. Brady, of Indiana, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Indiana.

Mitch McConnell, Johnny Isakson, Roger F. Wicker, John Boozman, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Shelley Moore Capito, Pat Roberts, Roy Blunt, Deb Fischer, David Perdue, Todd Young, John Thune, Mike Rounds, Steve Daines, John Hoeven, Thom Tillis.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Holly A. Brady, of Indiana, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Indiana, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) is necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 56, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 72 Ex.]

YEAS—56

Alexander	Gardner	Perdue
Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hawley	Roberts
Boozman	Hoeven	Romney
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Burr	Inhofe	Rubio
Capito	Isakson	Sasse
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Collins	Jones	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Shelby
Cotton	Lankford	Sinema
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Manchin	Thune
Cruz	McConnell	Tillis
Daines	McSally	Toomey
Enzi	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Murkowski	Young
Fischer	Paul	

NAYS—43

Baldwin	Hassan	Sanders
Bennet	Heinrich	Schatz
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schumer
Brown	Kaine	Shaheen
Cantwell	King	Smith
Cardin	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Carper	Leahy	Tester
Casey	Markey	Udall
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Peters	Wyden
Gillibrand	Reed	
Harris	Rosen	

NOT VOTING—1

Booker

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 56, and the nays are 43.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Holly A. Brady, of Indiana, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Indiana.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION ACT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today marks the 30th anniversary of a very important law—the Whistleblower Protection Act. It is very important because people in government ought to listen to whistleblowers. They are very patriotic people.

The law is a critical foundation for the whistleblower protections we have in place today. The Whistleblower Protection Act has helped to usher in a

new era at our Federal Agencies. Government employees who are aware of waste, fraud, and abuse can now step forward and do the right thing, and they can do it with the law on their side.

As one of the original cosponsors of the Whistleblower Protection Act, I remember what things were like before that law was passed. I will give some examples, and these examples aren't pretty.

Back in the 1980s, I used to say that the whistleblower's only hope was like the desperate Charge of the Light Brigade. There were rarely any survivors. At the time, the executive branch saw whistleblowers not as patriots but as threats. Agencies wouldn't even verbally acknowledge the importance of whistleblowers in making government accountable to the people. Our whistleblower laws had no teeth, so there was nothing to stop it from happening and nothing to provide any relief at all to the patriotic whistleblowers who were then experiencing retaliation.

To give an idea of just how bad things were, let's start in 1984. A study conducted by the Merit Systems Protection Board found that nearly 70 percent of government employees who knew of fraud and impropriety wouldn't even report it and wouldn't say what they knew about it. They believed that no corrections would result if they did, and their No. 1 reason for nonreporting was fear of reprisal.

The sitting special counsel from 1982 to 1986 said that if he were an attorney advising whistleblowers, he would tell them this: ''Don't put your head up, because it will get blown off.'' At the time, the Office of Special Counsel was part of a bigger organization that we refer to as the Merit Systems Protection Board. Instead of protecting whistleblowers, it protected the merit system—not individual employees, and, let me emphasize, certainly not whistleblowers. The special counsel's office would pursue only those cases it thought it could win. If a whistleblower came to it with a retaliation case that was difficult to prove, the whistleblower was simply out of luck.

So the Whistleblower Protection Act, 30 years old, addressed all of these problems and then some. That law made the Office of Special Counsel into a separate body, and it firmly established that the Office of Special Counsel was there solely to protect employees, especially whistleblowers.

In doing so, it gave whistleblowers a new and important ally. The law also established that the Office of Special Counsel should act, not just when it had an open and shut case but whenever it was likely that a prohibited personnel practice had occurred against a whistleblower. It made the Office of Special Counsel a chief defender of employees subject to prohibited personnel practices. The law addressed other problems as well.

I remember back in the 1980s, the Office of Special Counsel had developed a disturbing practice of providing information on whistleblowers to Federal Agencies conducting personnel inquiries; as an example, people like Elaine Mittleman. Elaine worked at the Treasury Department. She went to the Office of Special Counsel alleging reprisal against her whistleblowing. When her case was rejected, she learned that the Office of Special Counsel had leaked negative information about her to the Office of Personnel Management to do her damage. The old Office of Special Counsel effectively ensured that Elaine was blacklisted from any other Federal employment.

Thankfully, the Whistleblower Protection Act stopped that practice and stopped it cold. The act prohibited the Office of Special Counsel from responding to Agency personnel inquiries about Federal employees except in the most limited of circumstances. It also expanded the definition of a protected disclosure and made it easier for employees to show reprisal. Of course, the 1989 law wasn't perfect, and in the time since it was passed, Congress expanded it and strengthened the Whistleblower Protection Act in very important ways.

In 2012, I was proud to serve as one of the original cosponsors of the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act. That legislation plugged several holes in the original law and made it clear that the executive branch can't use nondisclosure agreements to prevent whistleblowers from making protected disclosures. If Federal employees are required to sign a nondisclosure agreement, specific language has to be included in that agreement making it clear that whistleblowers can still report waste, fraud, and abuse. Wouldn't the taxpayers expect a Federal employee who knows about waste, fraud, and abuse to report that as a responsibility to their office and then not to be reprised against because they did?

It is safe to say that, taken together, the Whistleblower Protection Act and the 2012 amendments have had a transformative effect on our Federal Agencies. Things are still hard for our whistleblowers in too many instances, and we still have a long way to go, but we have come a very long way since I first started working on these issues. By the numbers, more whistleblowers now report waste, fraud, and abuse, and they have the ability to fight retaliation. I hate to say this, but too often whistleblowers are retaliated against, even with respect or even in consideration of the Whistleblower Protection Act.

In fiscal year 2017, to show progress and to show that the bill has made a difference, the Office of Special Counsel obtained 323 favorable actions, including stays, corrective actions, disciplinary actions, and systemic changes to Agency practices. That is an Agency record and a 16-percent increase over the previous year. Of those, 241 involved instances of whistleblower retaliation, and 44 involved stays with Agencies to protect employees from premature or improper personnel actions against them.

One of those retaliation cases involved a Federal worker who reported an Agency official to her management and to the Office of Inspector General for suspected theft. In exchange for disclosure, the official who was reported demoted the worker to the lowest possible position she could.

That is just one example to show you how patriotic people in the Federal employment who are whistleblowers—who just want government to do what the law requires or spend the money accordingly—get shafted as a result of just doing what you ought to do as a Federal employee: report waste, fraud, and abuse and stealing.

This person had some help because, as I said, she was demoted to the lowest possible position that she could; that is, until the worker filed a complaint and the Office of Special Counsel investigated. Following the investigation of the Office of Special Counsel, the complainant was not only reinstated but given backpay and compensatory damages. Faced with punitive actions, including temporary suspension and a reassignment, the Agency official who had engaged in the retaliation decided to resign. That is just one example of how the Whistleblower Protection Act has made a difference. I could, of course, list many others.

The Whistleblower Protection Act and its amendments have also had an important effect on congressional oversight. Whistleblowers are the eyes and ears inside the executive branch. In fact, when people come to my office explaining why they ought to be confirmed by the Senate, there are a couple of things I always tell them: No. 1, either you run your Department or it runs you; No. 2, you ought to listen to the whistleblower. Whether you are a little Agency with a couple of thousand employees or whether you are the Veterans' Administration with 350,000-some employees, you can't know what is going on down underneath you. When people tell you something is wrong, you ought to listen. Like I said, I have found it very helpful with congressional oversight.

My own oversight efforts would not be possible without the courageous action taken by whistleblowers. For example, whistleblowers contacted my office during the Obama administration about criminals who should be ineligible for DACA but, due to an oversight by the Department, were still receiving benefits like work authorization. Scrutiny of the program led to more thorough recurrent vetting of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

I worked with a number of whistleblowers at the Department of Veterans Affairs who had the courage—and it takes courage—to stand up and do what is right.

More recently, my office worked with Brandon Coleman after he was put on administrative leave for more than a

year and kept from running an addiction treatment program for veterans. It happens that Brandon's only ''mistake'' was to point out poor treatment of suicidal veterans. Eventually, after a concerted effort by my office, Senator JOHNSON's office, and the Office of Special Counsel, Brandon was provided a new position within the VA's Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection. That is how it should be done.

Without the protections established by the Whistleblower Protection Act, Brandon's story might have turned out very differently. Without these protections, who knows how many other instances of waste, fraud, and abuse that we have been able to find and repair thanks to whistleblowers would be continuing now unabated?

Now, make no mistake, we still have a ways to go to ensure that whistleblowers are valued as they should be valued and supported as they should be supported. I still hear from far too many whistleblowers who have done the right thing only to experience retaliation from their Agencies as a result.

We in Congress, including this Senator, shouldn't be hearing those things at all. That is why continued oversight by Congress is so very important. Whistleblowers depend on us—you and me. All of our colleagues in this body ought to be listening to them. We ought to be supporting them and honoring them by following up on their concerns and taking action to fix serious problems when they bring them to our attention.

I thank the whistleblowers who worked with my office over the years. They are truly patriots willing to put their job on the line, willing to put their profession on the line. We have come a long way since the Whistleblower Protection Act first passed in 1989. We owe it to them to build on the progress we made and to continue to improve upon our whistleblower laws for years to come.

You can rest assured that I will be part of those ongoing efforts on this important anniversary of the Whistleblower Protection Act. I encourage my colleagues to reflect on the important role whistleblowers play in our government and to renew their commitment to the same.

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

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

REMEMBERING FRITZ HOLLINGS

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise this afternoon in honor of my good friend from South Carolina, the late Senator Fritz Hollings, who spent many, many years right here in this Chamber.

As we mourn his passing today, we remember the great impact Fritz Hollings had both in the Senate and in his home State of South Carolina, where he served as Governor, as Lieutenant Governor, as a member of the State legislature, and so forth. From 1966 to 2005, which was nearly four decades, he also represented South Carolina in Washington—right here in this body.

Born and raised in Charleston, SC, Fritz Hollings was a distinguished graduate of the Citadel and served as an Army artillery officer during World War II, for which he was awarded, among other things, the Bronze Star.

For 36 years, Fritz Hollings served alongside Strom Thurmond in the Senate, whom the Presiding Officer will remember. He was the junior Senator of his State for six terms, which made him the longest serving junior Senator in the history of the Senate. Throughout his tenure, Fritz served as a senior member of the Appropriations Committee, where I served with him. He was also the chairman of the Budget Committee and the chairman of the Commerce Committee. He was a skilled legislator and statesman.

In terms of influential policy, Fritz made quite a mark. He was instrumental in the creation of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which we know as NOAA. When he was chairman of the Commerce Committee, he also helped to enact laws to alleviate childhood hunger and to expand competition in telecommunications during the early stages of the internet.

He may have spent nearly 39 years in the Senate, but his time in Washington was not all that made up his career.

Fritz Hollings served three terms in the South Carolina House of Representatives. He won his first election in 1948 at the age of 26. He went on to serve as South Carolina's Lieutenant Governor and then as its Governor at the age of 36. In 1984, while he was a sitting Senator here, he ran for President of the United States. He was a true public servant. He devoted his entire life to the betterment of his country, to his State, and to his people.

As we honor his lasting impact and achievements throughout his career, we are reminded that Fritz was what we would call a southern gentleman. With a distinguished Charlestonian southern drawl and a quick wit, Fritz was courteous and well mannered. He built his seniority with patience and respect.

I am grateful for his friendship and camaraderie over the last 40 years. Annette and I join his family as we mourn his passing and celebrate his life and the legacy he leaves behind in the U.S. Senate.

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

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

VENEZUELA

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last year I made my first trip to Venezuela just 1 month before a Presidential election that by all accounts was about to be rigged by the incumbent, Maduro. His criminal regime was increasingly isolated by its neighbors in the world.

The Venezuelan people are suffering horribly—malnutrition, hyperinflation, levels of disease seen only in war zones around the world. As a result, 3 million Venezuelans have fled the country.

Neighbors in Colombia and Ecuador showed and continue to show incredible compassion to the hundreds of thousands of desperate Venezuelans who are pouring across their borders. In fact, my staff was just in Cucuta, Colombia, on the Venezuelan border, and my staff saw firsthand the humanity and patience of the Colombian people helping their Venezuelan brothers and sisters showing up desperate for food and safety, all amid the stark cruelty of barricaded bridges deliberately blocking aid trucks.

I might just add parenthetically—what a sharp contrast: the suffering in Venezuela and the people in Colombia, their neighbors who are trying to help, and what we are doing on our southern border when it comes to those who are suffering in Honduras and El Salvador and Guatemala. What a contrast.

During my visit to Venezuela last year, I told Maduro that if he went ahead with his stolen election, he would find himself isolated in the eyes of the world, and the Venezuelan people would suffer even greater hardship. I told him that in Washington both political parties don't agree on much, but they do on Venezuela.

Tragically, he ignored me and proceeded with this discredited election.

As a result, when the region's governments on both the left and the right decided to recognize the Venezuelan National Assembly President Juan Guaido as the country's interim President, as provided for under the country's Constitution, I promptly agreed. In fact, I called Guaido immediately, spoke to him personally, and came to the floor of the Senate to offer my support for his ascendency as the leader of Venezuela.

I had met him in Caracas last year at a dinner that was kind of a secret dinner since he was in the opposition, and I remember at that dinner that five members of the National Assembly said: If you come back here in 2019 and look for the five of us, two of us will be exiled, two will be in prison, and one will disappear. That is what happened in Venezuela.

The courage they showed at that meeting and afterward should not be ignored by the American people.

As President Trump made his case that the world needed to act in Venezuela, in part because of the horrible situation and danger the Venezuelan people found themselves in, I joined in

bipartisan agreement. The danger and fear are well-placed and well-documented—armed vigilante groups, some in motorcycle gangs, that harass and beat innocent civilians; extended power outages, leaving already desperate medical care even more perilous; and arbitrary arrest and torture for those peacefully demonstrating against the Maduro regime.

Just the other week, interim President Guaido's Chief of Staff, Roberto Morrero, was arrested by the Maduro regime, and it is feared that he is enduring torture at the present time.

Judge Maria Afiuni, already cruelly jailed at a previous time and assaulted for making a judicial ruling against the Chavez regime, has now found herself facing another 5-year sentence under the Maduro regime.

Five dual U.S.-Venezuelan citizens and a U.S. permanent resident who are CITGO employees have been cruelly held hostage in a basement prison for more than a year after being tricked into going to Venezuela for a business meeting.

So amid the administration's accurate description of the misery and the danger that Venezuelans face, this administration still refuses to grant to the estimated 72,000 Venezuelans on visas in the United States—some of them students in my home State of Illinois—temporary protected status. This would be an obviously humanitarian move that would allow them to stay here until Venezuela is safe and stabilized.

In Illinois, where many Venezuelans are studying in our colleges and universities, I have heard repeatedly of their desperation. Their visas are about to expire, and unless the President—and he has the power to do it—extends their protected status in this country, they will be forced to go back to Venezuela, a country our government warns people to stay away from.

I held a townhall meeting in Illinois with my Venezuelan friends. They are heartbroken and worried about their families who are still in Venezuela to this day, and they worry about the danger and violence they are going to face. Is it any wonder, then, that many of them who are students or visitors here want to stay in the safety of the United States until this stabilizes?

I would say to the President: I know your opinion of immigrants, and I know your opinion of refugees, but don't give us a speech one day telling us how dangerous it is in Venezuela and then the next day refuse to allow these people who are here to stay safely.

Temporary protected status is not permanent. It is a short-term humanitarian measure. We ought to do it.

This temporary protected status can be granted to nationals of another country who are in the United States if returning to their country would pose a serious threat to their personal safety.

Do you know what the official line of the Trump administration is about Americans who want to visit Venezuela now? Let me read it to you. Here is what the State Department says:

> Do not travel to Venezuela due to crime, civil unrest, poor health infrastructure, and arbitrary arrest and detention of U.S. citizens. . . . Violent crime, such as homicide, armed robbery, kidnapping, and carjacking is common. . . . There are shortages of food, electricity, water, medicine, and medical supplies through much of Venezuela.

That is the official line of our government, warning people not to go to Venezuela. Yet even weeks after Senator RUBIO and I have requested it, the administration still refuses to give the Venezuelans in the United States protected status so that they are not forced to face the same thing.

Recent power outages have left the country even more desperate for basic water. Look at this photograph here. This shows people collecting water falling from a leaky pipeline along the banks of a river in Caracas. That is the desperation these people face.

How can we force people to return to Venezuela when our own State Department says it is too dangerous to travel there?

In fact, last month Senators Rubio, Menendez, and I—and 21 other Senate Democrats—sent a bipartisan letter to President Trump, urging him to take the obvious step that would match his rhetoric on Venezuela.

I have also raised this directly with Vice President PENCE and National Security Advisor Bolton.

Let me again urge here on the Senate floor that President Trump take action to grant TPS status to the Venezuelans in the United States. This would be a concrete measure that President Trump could take this afternoon with the stroke of a pen to protect tens of thousands of innocent people.

At a time when some have questioned America's real intentions toward Venezuela, this action by President Trump of granting TPS status to Venezuelan visitors in the United States would demonstrate that our true focus is on the safety and well-being of these innocent people.

This is not only the right thing to do, but it would fully align the President with his speeches.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

TAX REFORM

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as we approach tax day, America's roaring economy keeps on speeding ahead as we continue to see the positive impact that the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is having throughout Iowa and the rest of our country.

Last week, yet another outstanding jobs report was released, showing that the economy added 196,000 jobs in March—well above expectations.

Just think, since tax reform was passed, 3.2 million jobs have been created. And year-over-year wage growth remains strong at 3.2 percent in March.

After years of stagnant wage growth, we have now had 8 consecutive months in which it exceeded 3 percent.

Under the leadership of Governor Kim Reynolds, Iowa's unemployment rate is the lowest in the country and is tied for the lowest rate ever recorded in our State. I have seen the effects of tax reform firsthand in my home State, and they are paying off big time.

Thanks to Senate Republican pro-growth tax reform, a business owner in Pella, IA, has saved tens of thousands in taxes, allowing her to increase the wages of her employees, purchase new semi-trailers, and upgrade her facilities.

A small brewery in central Iowa has been able to hire a new full-time employee and purchase an additional fermenter, increasing their production by 17 percent.

In a survey of Iowa businesses last month, 87 percent of folks said they plan to make capital expenditures this quarter, and the vast majority expects sales to grow over the next year.

By lowering tax rates and doubling the standard deduction and child tax credit, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act has also helped families throughout Iowa keep more of their hard-earned dollars.

In 2018 alone, Iowans saved an estimated $1.8 billion in Federal taxes. A single mother earning $30,000 a year is saving over $1,000 in taxes. Iowans earning between $40,000 and $80,000 are receiving an average tax cut of $1,128 dollars.

These savings are certainly not pennies, as some of our Democratic colleagues have suggested. These tax cuts are allowing families to get ahead and save for their future.

Iowans are feeling the strong effects of the pro-growth tax cuts that Republicans passed. Folks are keeping more of their own money, and at the same time, the rising tide of our economy is lifting wages.

A couple of years ago, we were in the midst of the most sluggish economic recovery in our history. Folks, it wasn't much of a recovery. Today, thanks to tax reform, Americans are able to keep more of their own hard-earned money, our economy is booming, wages are finally rising, and unemployment is at a near 50-year low.

Tax reform has created a more competitive tax system while providing much needed relief for hard-working Iowans and job creators of all sizes. And folks, this really is only the beginning.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PERDUE). The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, as we said when we began to talk about tax reform months ago now, the purpose of tax reform was stronger families and expanding opportunities for every American. I think the facts are clear that that is exactly what happened.

Over the past year, most people saw bigger paychecks. Many of those people saw bigger paychecks because they had less money taken out of their checks. Ninety percent of middle-class Americans received a tax cut. Pay increases

for lots of other Americans set new standards in recent years. I think the pay increases of slightly less than 4 percent in the last year are higher than at any time in recent memory.

Under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, the child tax credit doubled from $1,000 to $2,000 per child. That credit is available to many more families than before and obviously is twice as big as before.

People are able to keep more of what they earn.

We have an economy right now where people actually believe for the first time in a decade that the chance they are going to get a promotion is greater than the chance they are going to lose their job. They have also stopped worrying about their neighbor losing their job or someone else in their family losing their job. At this time, we have an economy where people who want to go to work can go to work with confidence.

Unemployment last month was at a 49-year low. Around a year ago, for the first time, more jobs were available than people looking for work. That had never happened before since keeping these statistics, that there were more jobs available than people looking for work. When it happened the next month, it was the second month in a row that it had ever happened because it had never happened before the first month. I think we are now 11 months into that statistic where there are more jobs than people looking for work.

In 2018, we had the strongest economic growth that we had seen since before the financial crisis about a decade ago.

According to the Department of Labor, average hourly earnings have increased by 3.4 percent year over year. That is the largest increase in a decade. Job openings increased to 7.6 million at the beginning of the year. That is the third highest job-opening number in a long time. As I said earlier, for the 12th straight month, the number of job openings has exceeded the number of jobseekers.

There is no doubt that the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act has been part of the economic turnaround and will continue to be. One of the ways it will do that is by promoting new investment in areas where they need it most, through what we call in the tax bill opportunity zones.

In Missouri, there are 161 areas that have been designated as opportunity zones, making them eligible for the investment incentives under the new Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

I want to thank my friend from South Carolina, our colleague from South Carolina, Senator SCOTT, for all of his hard work in making sure this provision not only makes sense to people but making sure we fought hard to see that it was included in the tax bill.

The majority of these zones were required to have an average poverty rate of at least 20 percent and a median family income of no more than 80 percent of the statewide median income. So obviously there are areas where something needs to happen to improve those areas.

It is predicted that $100 billion of private capital will go into those opportunity zones. These are places where, even unlike the 1031 exchange, you can take an asset that is no longer working for you or you are no longer excited about having and you can get rid of that asset and put it in an opportunity zone. It doesn't have to be a like-kind exchange. There is a difference in focus and focusing where people need it.

Attracting new investments to distressed urban and rural communities with high poverty rates and slow job growth is a challenge. This is one of the things that the tax cut is beginning to do and that the new tax bill is beginning to do, bringing in that investment and creating more opportunities for families.

Just recently, Housing and Urban Development Secretary Ben Carson came to St. Louis to highlight opportunity zones. Here is what the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development said: ''The Opportunity Zones present an incredible opportunity for people to take unrealized capital gains that would normally be invested into more traditional vehicles and focus them on areas that are traditionally neglected.''

The opportunity zones are another example of how tax reform is working to benefit Missourians and people all over the country. I think the goal of a tax plan that would benefit families and benefit individuals is clearly being realized as we approach the day that none of us are ever excited about—tax day. It is not the most popular day in the year, but over the past year, people have been able to keep more of the money they earn, and maybe just as important, they have been earning more money than they earned before even if they didn't benefit directly from the new Tax Code.

While this is not the most favorite day of the year, it is a day that has been better for American families than this day has been for a long time, and hopefully it will be even better a year from now.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about our booming economy and the stellar jobs report we saw on Friday, thanks in part to tax reform.

With tax day just around the corner, I would like to briefly highlight the many benefits American families, workers, and job creators have experienced as a result of lower tax rates.

Since Republicans passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, 3.2 million new jobs have been created. Our 3.8 percent unemployment rate is near a 50-year low. The unemployment rate for women in particular matches the lowest rate since 1953. Ninety percent of middle-class workers have experienced a tax cut, and jobless claims have recently dropped to the lowest level since 1969. Additionally, in 2018, manufacturing job creation was the highest it has been in over 20 years.

As the most manufacturing-intensive State in the Nation, Indiana particularly benefits from this tax cut bill.

Last year, in conjunction with tax day, I spoke on the Senate floor about the many stories that have already poured into my office from Indiana businesses that are paying their workers more and constituents who are earning more. This year, I am proud to say these stories continue.

My guest to last year's State of the Union, Chelsee Hatfield, is a prime example. When tax reform was signed into law, Chelsee, a young mother of three, was working as a teller at a rural bank, First Farmers Bank and Trust Company in Tipton, IN. She received a raise and a bonus as a result of tax reform. This additional income helped Chelsee go back to school to earn her associate's degree, and it enabled her to put money away for her children's future college education. I am proud to say that this summer, Chelsee graduated with her degree, and she has been promoted to a commercial loan administrative assistant position. What a powerful story.

I recently had the opportunity to visit with a third-generation small business owner in Fort Wayne. Dan Parker is the owner of Parker Towing & Recovery. He was able to purchase several new trucks thanks in part to tax reform. This means more trucks will be available to assist Hoosiers who have been in a car accident or have had their cars break down. Parker also recently expanded the company's office space and gave his staff raises. Parker said: ''As a result, we have less turnover now.''

Another Indiana employer, Cardinal Manufacturing Company in Indianapolis, rewarded its team members with bonuses and pay raises.

Albanese Confectionery, a candy manufacturing company in Merrillville, provided bonuses that it says will happen annually as long as the tax reform bill stays in effect.

Lastly, I would note that this new Tax Code incentivizes new investment into distressed rural and urban communities to help the least among us through the creation of tax-advantaged opportunity zones around the State of Indiana.

The bottom line is that Hoosiers continue to benefit from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Workers are taking home more of their hard-earned money, and businesses of all sizes are expanding, hiring, and investing in their employees.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to continue supporting policies like tax reform that have our economy booming.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I want to join several of my colleagues today who are noting that we are approaching tax day. It is not a day Americans look forward to, but it is part of our responsibilities. The old joke about the two things that are certain—death and taxes—is still certain for all of us.

This year, it is interesting to approach this tax season in the first year of everyone filing under the new tax law. It has been fascinating to read some of the stories about what some of the media—the national media in particular—is saying about the tax law. They are so desperate to find anything to criticize. It is fascinating to me to read the headlines versus the stories.

The headline in this story in particular is ''This is going to wipe us out,'' in reference to the new tax law. When you read through the story and find out who they say is going to get wiped out, here is their illustration of the person: a person moving from a $400,000 house this past year to one valued at $1.1 million. He concedes he has a first-world problem of his taxes going up, but he says that owing more in taxes is ''a little disheartening''—as he moves from a $400,000 house to a $1.1 million home. I am excited for him and his new home. I am sure it is beautiful. But that was their illustration of who is going to get hard hit by the tax changes.

This article from a national source said: ''Is a Tax Refund Ahead in Your 2019? Some Taxpayers Received a Tax Bill Instead.'' You go to the middle of the story, and they make this one little note: ''Only about 5% of taxpayers . . . are expected to pay more under the new law.'' In other words, 95 percent of Americans—even in this story that is a negative story about the taxes, they hide the simple fact that 95 percent of Americans will pay the same or less. The vast majority of those will pay less in their taxes for the next year.

How about this one. Here is another national story that came out. ''Small business owners struggling to understand Trump's new tax law.'' When you get down to literally the last line of the story, it ends like this, with the same small business owner:

> I don't know [yet] if it's going to impact my cash flow, the way I have to put money aside for this year, because I'm not sure. I may even do better [under the tax law], I don't know [yet].

That was their whole story to say that people are struggling under this tax law—it was just the uncertainty.

What am I finding in Oklahoma? I am finding more jobs and more opportunity across the State. This is not some accident of history; this is the direct result of a change in the tax law.

I am quite confident that my liberal colleagues have all been very excited to find something to complain about through this process, but they overlook the simple fact that this one story buries 95 percent of Americans who do the same or better under the tax law and that the vast majority of those are doing better under the tax law.

It was interesting. There was a Vox tweet that came out from a news source from one of the reporters who made this one comment this past week, saying: ''Nobody likes to give themselves credit for this kind of messaging success, but progressive groups did a really good job of convincing people that Trump raised their taxes when the facts say a clear majority got a tax cut.''

My favorite: The left-leaning Tax Policy Center had to begrudgingly study the tax cut and what is actually happening and say: Middle-class taxes actually went down. Families kept almost $1,000 more, which would have previously gone into government coffers.

What happened as a result of that, as a result of people keeping their own money and the withholding tables changing this past year so that each month, people are actually keeping more of their own money? Here is what happened: Our GDP grew at 3 percent a year—a dramatic increase from what we have had in the past; inflation-adjusted business investment has gone up 7 percent just since the tax cuts; and 215,000 new jobs have started on average every month since the tax cuts. Those are very strong numbers across the country. Unemployment has gone to 3.9 percent since the enactment of tax reform. Beginning in April of last year, the number of job openings in the national economy has exceeded the number of unemployed Americans—something that had not been recorded prior to April since records have been kept.

So starting this past year, there are literally more people searching to find other opportunities than there are opportunities out there because there are so many jobs open. So many companies are still trying to hire and are looking for people that people have the opportunity to stay at their same job, get better pay, or switch to a new job and get opportunities. That is providing more opportunities for more people to transition to a new job or make more money at their own job.

Well, what has happened on wages? As a result of what is happening in the economy, wages have gone up 2.9 percent just since the tax cut; that is, individual wages have gone up. What happened to income during that time period? Let me go back to the Obama time period. When President Obama was President, on average, income went up 1.8 percent; that is, total take-home. Since the tax reform, income has gone up 4 percent for each American. That is double the amount during the Obama administration. Again, this is not an accident of history; this is the result of the tax reform. This is what happens when people are allowed to keep more of their own money and spend it. More companies are doing better. There is more investment happening, more job opportunities, more opportunity to get a different job or to get a raise at your current job, and take-home pay has increased.

What has happened in people's taxes? Well, early on this year, the stories, as I referenced before, were all about how tax returns were down. They searched to find anyone who had tax returns that were down. All those stories disappeared in late February, when the IRS brought out the latest numbers, not from January and early February but from February and March, and said: Actually, tax returns are up this year from what they were in the previous year.

As of the latest number, April 5, tax returns for individuals almost are dead even, exactly as they were last year. So the stories have disappeared from headlines that their tax returns changed because the IRS continues to report the facts. Actually, the returns are almost exactly what they were from the previous time.

So what has happened to actually help people in their paying of their taxes? Well, I started asking some of my team in Oklahoma to just ask people. When you are traveling around the State and when you are visiting people, just ask them how their taxes have gone and what has happened because people are filing now—just find out what is going on.

One of the dry cleaners in Enid let our team know that he is doing better in his small business taxes this year, and he is actually going to be able to put a downpayment now on some brand new equipment at his dry cleaner in Enid.

With another one we talked to—he is in his early thirties, married, he and his wife both work. They said they saved enough on their taxes this year from last year that they are going to start paying off some of their student loans and start paying down their car loan faster.

We spoke to one other gentleman who is also in his late thirties. They have one child who was born this past year. They said they have saved enough in their taxes from the previous year that they are going to be able to take care of some healthcare costs they have, and they are going to start setting aside some money to allow his wife to start a Roth IRA account. Starting their savings for their retirement in their thirties, when you should start saving for your retirement, they are able do this year because of the change in the Tax Code.

With another gentleman we talked to who works in Oklahoma City, he reported that with his withholding changes that happened, he is now actually in a—he was in a 25-percent tax bracket and has now moved to the 22-percent tax bracket, and he is using his savings to take care of some of the issues he had in his own personal debt.

We have a married couple in Davis, OK, down in South-Central Oklahoma. Their income actually went up $4,000

this last year. When they finished all their tax payments, their tax actually decreased by $700 from one year to the next, even though their income went up.

Another couple down the street from Davis in Sulphur, OK, own a small farm. Their income went up $7,000 last year from the previous year, and they were panicked about what would happen with their taxes. Well, their taxes actually decreased $1,400 from the year before.

We have a police officer in Norman, OK, just south of Oklahoma City. He actually—he and his family, after they finished filing all their taxes, he said this:

> I now bring home more in my check every 2 weeks because of the change in the Tax Code. It is making things so much simpler for us to be able to make ends meet.

There was a teacher in an elementary school. She noted, as simple as this may sound, that she has received $10 more every single time a paycheck came out, and that made a difference for her as a first-year teacher just getting started.

There is a farmer with two kids. He was able to use the new child tax credits, and although his income was higher than the year before, his tax burden was $3,000.

There is a pilot married to a nurse in our State. Their income actually increased in the past year as well, but he said with the lower tax rates and the child tax credits, their tax burden also decreased by $1,000 from the year before.

All these are real-life stories of what is really going on in the State. As I hear all the different stories that come out, people lose track of the fact of what is really happening. While some of my colleagues have been so focused on trying to find some way to be able to damage the effect of tax cuts, families in my State know the difference.

One of the families we encountered this past week made a comment that they had a child born in 2018. That child was born in 2018 but actually very premature. Their medical bills racked up pretty quickly because the child was in the ICU. Then they started filing their taxes this year as their medical bills were coming in—by the way, their child is doing well and healthy. As they started filling out all their forms and were thinking about some of their bills, being able to cover their deductible, their tax bill came back in, and they saw their taxes are lower, and they are using their higher return this year to offset the medical costs from the early delivery of their child.

This is what tax reform looks like. Some of my colleagues try to spend all of their time saying tax reform is all about big corporations and Wall Street. Interestingly enough, most of the high-income folks in my State have said, actually, their taxes went up a little bit this year, not down. They are part of that 5 percent of Americans who didn't end up with a tax change. For the vast majority of Americans who are working and putting ends together and taking care of their family, in my State and in other States, they are finding that tax reform is not some theory to them. It was a real help to their family in paying off debt, starting retirement, taking care of medical costs, taking care of their family, getting going on with life, and as the police officer in Norman said, ''just making things a little simpler.''

Tax reform is determined to help our economy, to get us growing, to get us going as a nation and provide more opportunities, and I am grateful, even in all the complexity of filling out tax forms, it is showing a real result in pragmatic ways to Americans.

This past weekend, I stopped and filled out my tax information—going through all the details and gathering all the forms and filling everything out. It is still a pain, and it is still not the most pleasant experience in all of life filling out your tax forms, but at the end of it, I reflected on some of these direct stories and realized there are people who really do feel the real effects of what is going on. Understanding all the frustration of filling out taxes, which is a pain for everybody, there is some real benefit this year versus the year before and I hope for the years to come.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, you have heard the quote: ''In this world, nothing can be said to be certain except death and taxes.'' Of course, that was from Benjamin Franklin back in 1789.

Well, just as Franklin predicted, the tax man cometh on Monday. This year, tax day follows a very strong March jobs report. Our booming economy remains an incredible boon for U.S. workers. Employers added 196,000 jobs last month. It beat all expectations. U.S. unemployment is right now at historic lows. It has remained at or below 4 percent now for over a year. Weekly jobless claims have fallen to a 50-year low—50 years. It has never been lower, and the unemployment rate for women is now the lowest since 1953.

Wages have increased by more than 3 percent, the fastest growth in a decade, and it is worth noting that in recent months, the biggest pay increases have gone to lower income workers. Bigger paychecks mean a higher standard of living. Bigger paychecks mean the median household income continues to rise and is, today, at the highest level ever in the United States.

There are currently 7.6 million jobs open. We actually have more open jobs in America today than we have people to fill them. Small businesses recently set hiring records, and 60 percent of small businesses have additional plans to hire more people. You would have to go back 20 years—two decades—to find as many new manufacturing jobs as we have added last year.

So this solid jobs news reflects an American economic renaissance brought about by Republican tax reform. Republicans reduced tax rates across the board. We have done it for individuals and have done it for businesses starting in 2018. We lowered tax rates for small businesses, as well as for family farms and family ranches, which is certainly a big thing for me in Wyoming. We nearly doubled the standard deduction. We cut our excessively high corporate tax rate as well so U.S. companies are able to compete better globally. We made it easier for business owners to recoup the cost of their investments because we want them to invest and hire more people in the process.

As a result of Republican leadership, American workers have abundant opportunity. The Washington Post reports that due to the strong labor market, economists, they say, now foresee ''almost no risk of an imminent recession.'' According to the Post article, ''As long as hiring remains strong and wages are climbing, the economy is likely to continue growing, experts say, because people typically spend more when they are not worried about losing their job.''

Our economy is strong. Our economy is healthy. Our economy is growing. The U.S. GDP has risen 3 percent year over year. Lower tax rates have freed job creators, giving companies the confidence to invest, to grow, and to hire. Employers have created more than 3 million jobs since tax reform passed and 5.5 million new jobs since President Trump took office. With faster job growth and better profits, businesses can invest more in their workers.

Last year, a number of Wyoming employers boosted pay and benefits due to tax reform. Darden Restaurants, with locations nationwide, including in Cheyenne and in Casper, invested $20 million in its workforce. Kroger grocery stores and convenience stores, with more than 1,400 employees in Wyoming, well, they invested $500 million to boost worker pay. Kroger plans to add, actually, 11,000 more jobs.

Many companies in Wyoming have made similar investments. I hear about them every weekend. Our utility company in Wyoming, Rocky Mountain Power, has rewarded our customers as well. It decreased its electricity rates last year by 3 percent, and, they say, as of course other utilities have across the country, it is a direct result of tax reform.

Democrats, on the other hand, are threatening to reverse these gains and dramatically increase taxes with their extreme socialist agenda. Democrats want to take over all of healthcare in this country and eliminate insurance from 180 million Americans. That bill was introduced today by the Senator from Vermont and cosponsored by, I assume, just about every Democrat who is running for President who is a Member of the Senate.

Medicare for All, let's be clear, is government-run healthcare. It has an

estimated 10-year price tag of over $32 trillion, meaning massive tax hikes for American families.

Democrats also want to control our energy sector. It is called the Green New Deal. Its estimated 10-year price tag is $93 trillion. This unaffordable, unworkable plan would destroy our economy and dramatically increase taxes.

Far-left Democrats are touting tax-the-rich plans that would punish success. These include raising the top marginal tax rate to 70 percent, imposing a 2-percent annual ''wealth tax,'' and raising the top estate tax rate to 77 percent on farmers, ranchers, and business owners.

Republicans dramatically reduced the estate tax or the ''death tax'' as a result of tax reform. This tax is double-taxation. It taxes money that has previously been taxed already. It hurts family-owned businesses, and it hurts ranchers and farmers and should be fully repealed.

Clearly, Democrats have taken a sharp left turn. Their policies will send our strong, healthy, and growing economy careening over the liberal cliff.

Republicans' pro-growth tax relief has produced a booming economy with millions of new jobs and larger paychecks. We freed job creators to hire again. We put Americans back to work. We raised the standard of living. Thanks to Republican tax reform, America is back in business.

So I say, we must come together. We must do it now. We must embrace commonsense policies that will continue our progress. Republicans have provided successful solutions. Democrats are now promoting the failure and the horrors of socialism.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

SOCIALISM

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, thanks very much. Before I talk about the auto industry, the strength of our economy, and climate change, I want to say a word about socialism.

I am a Democrat. I am not a socialist. I was a naval flight officer for 23 years, plus 4 years as a midshipman before that. I had three tours in Southeast Asia, and I am the last Vietnam veteran standing.

I have no interest in supporting a socialist agenda—none at all, none at all. In fact, I don't know if many of my colleagues feel that way, either.

I do know this, though. I know an election was held in November of 2008. We were in the worst recession since the Great Depression. Banks stopped lending money. The unemployment rate reached 10 percent. Banks were not lending money to people to go to school, to start businesses, to buy cars. It was a terrible time.

We had an election. The voters of this country decided to change horses, and Barack Obama succeeded George W. Bush. Joe Biden was elected Vice President.

They started at the bottom. It hadn't been that bad in this country in terms of our economy since the Great Depression. Eight years later, we had another election, and the new administration inherited the longest running economic expansion in the history of this country.

I will say that again. The Trump administration inherited in January of 2017 the longest running economic expansion since the Great Depression.

Add to that the tax bill that pumps up the economy, and now we are 10 years into an economic recovery. That is the good news. It has been 10 years.

The unemployment rate is low. I think one of our earlier speakers said that GDP growth from last year was 3 percent. That was actually a little bit under 3 percent. He said it hadn't been that low for a long time. I think that low was reached maybe in a couple of quarters of the last year or so of the Obama administration.

But what I am concerned about are two things. One, a lot of money that goes to businesses through the tax bill—a lot of it—has been used for stock buybacks. It pumps up the value of stocks. It pumps up the value of the stock exchange, and it gives us a feeling of elation and jubilation. But we need to temper that a little bit with something else, and that ''it'' is called a deficit.

We had 4 years of a balanced budget. We hadn't been able to balance our budget from 1968 to about 1998. We couldn't balance our budget. The last 4 years of the Clinton administration, we had four balanced budgets in a row.

We also had a great recovery from an economic recession inherited in 1993, beginning with the Clinton administration, and we turned over a strong, robust economy to the George W. Bush administration in 2001. He also turned over to him a balanced budget—about four in a row.

Eight years later, we didn't have a balanced budget anymore. We had a huge deficit, and we were in the worst recession since the Great Depression.

Sometimes we reimagine history. I just want to set the record straight.

I used to be the treasurer for the State of Delaware when we had the worst credit rating in the country. We were at 29. We couldn't balance our budgets for nothing. We had the worst credit rating, tied with Puerto Rico. We were dead last. The people in Puerto Rico were embarrassed to be in the same shoes as us in terms of our credit rating. So I have some idea of what it is like to be in debt and some idea of how to get out of debt.

We are looking at debt right now in this country, coming off of the debts of the last fiscal year, of $750 billion—''billion'' dollars. This year's deficit is expected to reach $850 billion—''billion'' dollars. Next year, it is expected to reach almost $1 trillion in 1 year—in 1 year.

That is no way to run a business, no way to run a government.

As a guy who is the senior Democrat on the Homeland Security Committee and viewing what is going on at the Department of Homeland Security, when we worked so long on a bipartisan basis to stabilize that Department and to enable them to do their job and to have the resources they need, to see the kind of turmoil that is going on in that Department breaks my heart. It breaks my heart.

That is the bad news.

The good news is that we had a markup today in the Environment and Public Works Committee. My colleague SHELDON WHITEHOUSE was there. We passed three pieces of legislation, all with bipartisan support. I think all of them passed unanimously.

One is called the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act. What does it do? It reduces emissions from diesel engines. The good thing about diesel engines is that they are in cars, trucks, vans, trains, boats, and locomotives. There are probably several million diesel engines in this country. They last a long time. A lot of them are really old, and a lot of them put out a lot of pollution.

Did you ever watch a diesel truck at a stoplight? The light changes and the diesel truck starts out, and black plumes of smoke come out of the back of the diesel truck. That is called particulate matter, and some of that particulate matter is called black carbon.

What does that black carbon do? It is about 1,000 times worse for our climate and our atmosphere than carbon dioxide. There is actually an American-made technology that will reduce emissions from those diesel trucks by as much as 90 percent.

If we are serious about doing something about climate change and reducing the impacts of climate change—extreme weather and all kinds of things—and if we are interested in doing that, we can reduce black carbon. Again, unanimously, our committee supported bipartisan legislation to do just that.

We have been doing this since 2005—using American technology and creating American jobs to do good things for our climate and our atmosphere. Those are the kinds of things we can do and we ought to do. Those are the things we can do and we ought to do.

It shouldn't all be blaming one side or the other. Let's find things we can work on together. I think for me the Holy Grail in terms of public policy, as the senior Democratic Senator serving with Mr. WHITEHOUSE and JOHN BARRASSO, our chairman, is this: How do we clean up our air? How do we clean up our water? How do we do good things for climate change and reduce the extreme weather?

How do we do those things and create jobs? By doing those three things, we do create jobs. Today in this country about 157 million people went to work. Three or four million of them went to work on jobs that have something to do with sustainable energy, clean energy, climate change, and holes in the ozone—prohibiting them and fixing

them. Three to four million people went to work on those kinds of jobs. That is a good thing.

The point I am trying to make is, Is it possible to do good things for our planet? Well, President Macron of France, down the hall about 1 year ago, spoke to a joint session of Congress and he said these words: We only get one planet. There is no planet B.

He was right. This is our planet, and it is going to belong to these young people—these pages sitting down in front of me this afternoon. It is your planet. It is already. We want to make sure that we turn it over to you in better shape than we found it.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. President, now let me talk a little bit about climate change and why it might be of some interest to us in Delaware. Delaware is the First State—the first State to ratify in the Nation, on September 7, 1787. Before any other State had ratified the Constitution, we did. For 1 week, Delaware was the entire United States of America. We let in Maryland, and we let in Pennsylvania and about 47 others. I think it has turned out all right, until now. We will see. Hopefully, it will turn out for a much longer period of time.

But the First State is also the lowest lying State in America. Think about that. It sits right on the Atlantic ocean, halfway between Maine and Florida. Our State is sinking and the oceans are rising. That is not a good combination, especially if you are as small as we are. So we have a personal interest in climate change, global warming, and sea level rise.

We don't believe it is esoteric. We don't believe it is scientific dogma. We think it is real, and it faces—maybe not my generation so much, although we are seeing bad things happen because of sea level rise and climate change—my kids and their kids someday. The chickens will come home to roost.

The question is, Can we do anything about it? And the answer is yes, we can do a lot.

Where should we start?

Well, we should start on a lot of places where carbon comes from. For me, one of the things we do is to make sure that we protect, if you will, the carbon-free sources of electricity generation to the extent that we can. As it turns out, 60 percent to 70 percent of the electricity in this country that is generated without creating carbon is from nuclear powerplants.

There is technology and research going on—advanced technology and advanced nuclear reactors—to see if there are ways we can build on nuclear power and reduce the amount of spent fuel. Some people call it waste. I call it spent fuel rods.

What can we do through new technology? There is actually reason to be encouraged. There is a lot we can do and we need to do.

What else can we do? Well, we can pass our Diesel Emissions Reduction Act and build on the legacy of the last 13 or 14 years. I am encouraged that we are going to do that.

We have nascent technology. I think that Europe is a little further ahead on this than we are, but we have the ability to not just take carbon dioxide out of a smokestack—say, out of a coal-fired plant generating electricity—but to literally pull carbon dioxide out of the air. It is ambient carbon dioxide, out of the air—to pull it out of the air and turn it into something useful.

While those are, I think, promising technologies, there is something else that is right before us that is a lot more effective, and that is our cars, trucks, and vans. Why do I mention them? The greatest sources of carbon dioxide emissions come from our mobile sources—our cars, trucks, and vans. It wasn't always that way. It used to be coal-fired plants, utility plants. It could have been cement plants or other manufacturing plants that emitted emissions, including carbon dioxide.

Today the largest source of CO_2 emissions on our planet are mobile sources—cars, trucks and vans. That is the bad news. The good news is that we can actually reduce that.

I was at the Detroit Auto Show. I have been going to the Detroit Auto Show for a long time. There was a time not that many years ago—a decade ago—when Delaware actually built more cars, trucks, and vans per capita than any other State. We had a huge interest in making sure our GM plant stayed in business and a huge interest in making sure that our Chrysler plant stayed in business.

As the Governor of Delaware, I worked hard to make sure that those plants stayed in business. We had 3,000, 4,000 employees in each of those plants. For a little State like Delaware, that is a lot. At the bottom of the great recession, GM went into bankruptcy. We lost them both. Thousands of jobs were gone just like that.

In any event, I still have a huge interest in automotives. One of the reasons I have a huge interest in the automobile industry is because of carbon dioxide emissions, and the largest source is in our cars, trucks, and vans—the automotive industry.

I went to the Detroit Auto Show again this past January and the January before, and I was there 11 years ago. Eleven years ago at the Detroit Auto Show, the Car of the Year was a car called the Chevrolet Volt, a hybrid. The first 30, 40 miles ran on battery, and after that, it was a gasoline engine.

It was the Car of the Year. It got only about 38 miles on a charge of electricity—a fully charged battery. Fast forward 10 years, and about a year ago, at the Detroit Auto Show, the Car of the Year was a Chevrolet Bolt. It got 140 miles on a charge. It was all electric, not a hybrid. The Chevrolet Volt went from 38 miles on a charge 11 years ago, and 10 years later, the Chevrolet Bolt goes 140 miles. That is pretty good progress.

I was at the Detroit Auto Show this year, and I saw close to a dozen different vehicles and manufacturers from this country and around the world that have all-electric car vehicles, and they are getting about 240 to 250 miles on a charge. Think about that. Eleven years ago, the Chevrolet Volt was getting 38 miles on a charge; a year and a half ago, the Chevrolet Bolt was getting 140 miles on a charge. This year, there are a number of cars getting 250 miles on a charge—off their battery. It is only going to get better.

We have the ability to create propulsion for our vehicles by using hydrogen in conjunction with fuel cells to create electricity to power our vehicles. What is the waste product? Let me see—water. The waste product of the hydrogen-powered fuel cell vehicles is H20. It is so clean, you can drink it. That is where the future is for automotive transportation in this country—battery-powered vehicles and those that are powered by hydrogen in conjunction with fuel cells.

In our committee, Senator BARRASSO, some of our colleagues, and I are getting to work on the highway bill. It is not just the highway bill; it is roads, highways, bridges, transit. We do this about every 5 years. We are starting to work on the next follow-on reauthorization of the transportation bill. The current bill expires on September 30 of next year.

We are getting a head start on it this year. We want to make sure, as we prepare for the next 5 years in transportation, that we build roads, highways, bridges, and transit systems in ways in which we realize we have a real challenge on this planet with too much carbon in the air and make sure we build into our roads, highways, and bridges the ability to recharge batteries.

Come 2030, half of the vehicles that are expected to be built and sold in this country will be battery-powered electric vehicles or they will be hydrogen-powered fuel cell vehicles. If we are smart about it, when we take up and legislate and build on past legislation to build roads, highways, bridges, and transit going forward, we will do it in a way that creates corridors where people traveling major roads in our country can easily stop and recharge their vehicle's battery or refuel hydrogen. That has to be part of our legislation.

Since much of our carbon dioxide is coming from mobile sources, we want to make sure that, when we build roads, highways, and bridges, we do it in a way in which we reduce emissions in smart ways, if you will, and the infrastructure is more sustainable. These are some of the things we need to do.

The other thing I want to say is that, for me, the Holy Grail of public policy right now, given the threat we face from climate change, extreme weather—I will give you a hint. We had too much rain in Delaware. We raise a lot of soybeans, a lot of corn, a lot of lima

beans, and a lot of chickens. If you asked a lot of farmers in Southern Delaware last year how things went, they will tell you that they got a whole lot of rain. We got a whole lot of rain last spring. You don't want to have too little rain, but you don't want too much. A lot of our farmers planted their crops last spring, and it rained, and it rained, and it rained. The crops did not come up. They plowed under and replanted, and it rained, and it rained, and it rained. Too many of our farmers didn't get a crop.

The folks in the Midwest—Nebraska, South Dakota, and other places—right now are going through even more extreme weather than that because they are getting a lot of rain all at once. I talked to one of our colleagues here in the Senate about his State this morning, and this is happening again, I think, maybe this week. That extreme weather is caused by too much carbon in the air. There is a great need to do something about it.

The good news is this. We can do something about it and create jobs. How would that work in the automotive area? Right now, our friends in the automotive industry would like to build a lot more fuel cell-powered vehicles and a lot of electric-powered vehicles. They plan to. They want to make sure that, when they do that and they are on the roads and highways across the country, people get their electric vehicles recharged and their hydrogen vehicles refueled.

We need to put into our transportation legislation provisions that make those charging stations and those fueling stations a reality. Our auto industry needs certain predictability. Most businesses will tell you that, of all things, they need certainty and predictability. It is at the top of the list. Right now, the current administration is not interested, unfortunately, in providing the certainty and predictability that folks need in the auto industry.

There is a 50-State deal to be made in terms of fuel efficiency standards going forward. It looks something like this: The Trump administration wants to have almost no increase in fuel efficiency standards between 2021 and 2025—almost nothing, almost flatline, and absolutely nothing beyond 2025. The current regulation in place by the last administration—the Obama administration—calls for, between 2021 and 2025, annual increases in fuel efficiency standards by roughly 5 percent. That is pretty steep. That doesn't sound like much, but after 5 years in a row, it is a big increase.

The auto industry is saying that they would like to have some near-term flexibility between 2021 and 2025 in fuel efficiency standards. They are ready to ramp it up going forward.

I think the current administration might be willing to agree on a compromise of fuel efficiency standards going up 1 percent a year between 2021 and 2025, but they don't want to do anything more after 2025. We will be making a bunch of vehicles that get maybe 300, maybe 400 miles on a charge. I think there might be a number between a 1-percent increase in fuel efficiency standards between 2021 and 2025 and a 5-percent increase. There may be some middle ground between a 1-percent-a-year and a 5-percent increase in what the Obama rules call for. Maybe it is 3 percent. So rather than making no progress in fuel efficiency standards, you have a 3-percent increase. The auto industry may not be crazy about it, but they can live with it. They can live with a good deal more than 3 percent after 2025. We ought to do that.

If we do that kind of thing, we will make sure we don't spend the next 5, 6 years with the auto industry in legal battles in California and 13 other States, including Delaware and Rhode Island. The auto industry has a certain predictability that they need. If they build these vehicles, we will be competitive on the world stage and have a strong economy as a result, and we will have done good things for our planet. Why wouldn't we do that? Really, why wouldn't we do that?

My dad was a big ''common sense'' guy. We can all probably remember things our parents said to us from time to time. Among other things, after my sister and I had done some bone-headed stunt, my dad would say: Just use common sense. He was an old chief petty officer in the Navy—tough as nails. He didn't say it that nicely, but he said ''just use common sense'' a lot.

We need to use some common sense. In doing that, we will create a great bunch of jobs and make ours a competitive nation on the world stage in one of the most important industries we have; that is, the building, design, and development of vehicles. We will do good things for our planet and for those who are going to inherit this planet from us.

That is pretty much what I wanted to say today.

I want to take a minute to say something as a bigger State talking to another big State—I like to tell people Delaware is the 49th largest State. We are about a couple of acres larger than Rhode Island. These are two States that I think the Senator from Rhode Island will agree with—I will say this to our pages here. I don't know if you have heard the term used in boxing when you have a smaller fighter fighting against a bigger fighter. When the little boxer wins over the much bigger boxer, you say the smaller boxer ''punches above his weight.'' When it comes to climate change and trying to figure out the right thing to do for our planet, our country, our people, I would like to say that in Rhode Island and Delaware, we punch above our weight. This may not be a heavyweight title bout, but this is a big one. Where they have world championships, in terms of issues, this is a world championship issue. This is one we can win.

I want to thank my friend Senator WHITEHOUSE for taking a great leadership role in all of this, including today. He knows, as most of us on this floor and I think on our planet know, that it is time to wake up, or as my friend Congresswoman LISA ROCHESTER likes to say: Stay woke.

Thank you, sir.

I yield the floor.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Thank you very much. It is not often that the distinguished ranking member on the EPW Committee gets to say he is from a bigger State and give his advice in those terms. I appreciate that we from Rhode Island were able to give him this moment.

I also want to thank him for his leadership in trying to fight for strong fuel economy and greenhouse gas emission standards for our automobiles.

The story of what is going on cannot be properly understood without understanding the oil industry's role in all of this. They are up to their usual mischief.

Our offices obtained a draft letter to the Deputy Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, urging her to weaken the auto emission standards. Well, we were able to look at the metadata on this document, and guess who wrote it. It was written by one of Marathon Petroleum's in-house lobbyists.

Marathon shopped this letter, which their lobbyist wrote, around to Members of Congress, convincing several to send similar letters in favor of weakening the standards. We took those letters, and we ran them through plagiarism software, and this is what we got. The red text is the text that is identical to the language of the Marathon lobbyist's letter. The black is where, in this case, Members of the Pennsylvania delegation added a little local information about Pennsylvania. It is an 80-percent match in the plagiarism software to the letter written by the Marathon Oil company lobbyist.

Marathon and the oil industry weren't just recruiting Members of Congress to copy their lobbyist language into letters to the Trump administration; they got their trade associations involved as well. The American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers Association lobbied, for instance, to weaken the standards, according to their lobbying disclosure reports. It is always better to have your trade association do your dirty work. What company really wants the public to know it lobbied to lower fuel economy standards so that consumers could pay more at the pump? It is not a good look.

In addition to cranking up its trade associations, the fossil fuel industry also cranked up its constellation of front groups that it has developed and funded over the years to kill laws and regulations that would reduce the carbon pollution that is driving climate change. The industry launched those front groups against the fuel economy and greenhouse gas emission auto standards. These front groups provide a veneer of fake public support for the oil industry's anti-climate campaign.

Take Americans for Prosperity, for instance. It is a lovely, benign-sounding name. Who could possibly be against prosperity? Yet, in reality, Americans for Prosperity is a front group that is funded by the fossil fuel billionaire Koch brothers, whose company, by the way, also lobbied against the standards. Americans for Prosperity doesn't disclose its donors. It is a secretive organization. So what little we know about its funders comes thanks to the hard work of a few muckraking, investigative journalists.

We do know that both ExxonMobil and the fossil fuel industry's flagship trade association, the American Petroleum Institute, give the AFP money, and they give them big money. Since the Citizens United decision, the AFP has spent about $70 million on Federal elections. It is throwing its weight around.

To oppose the auto standards, the AFP created an elaborate online deception campaign that was centered on this petition against the standards. Unfortunately, for them, the public was not buying its nonsense. Despite an onslaught of online advertising, only 231 people signed up. It looks like no one wanted to spend more on gas and that no amount of fossil fuel lies could convince them otherwise.

FreedomWorks is yet another front group that has received millions in funding from the Koch brothers and fossil fuel interests like the American Petroleum Institute. It also started an online campaign against the standards, and that, too, bombed. There is a word for this stuff. It is called astroturf. It is fake grassroots. Real grassroots organizations don't need tens of millions of dollars from fossil fuel front groups. Real grassroots organizations thrive on the engagement and the passion of citizens, not on millions in special interest, dark money.

In having flopped at astroturfing, the oil industry organized its front groups to write directly to Trump administration officials and lobby them to repeal the standards. Here is one of these letters, and a dozen phony front groups signed it. Like I said, they built a constellation of these phony front groups, and a dozen signed this letter. These groups together have received—like I said, mostly of secret money—a minimum of $196 million from fossil fuel industry interests, including from the Koch brothers, API, ExxonMobil, and Chevron.

This $196 million did a lot of talking, for this letter found its way to an eager audience in the Trump administration, which is stuffed with fossil fuel lobbyists and flunkies. So they gave the oil industry exactly what it wanted—a proposal to freeze the auto emission standards and to challenge California and other States, like mine, our authority to set our own standards.

What is strange about this is that this proposal isn't what the auto industry says it wanted. Once the oil industry jumped into the fray, the auto industry let Big Oil take over, or it got shoved aside by Big Oil. Big Oil barged in and got exactly what it wanted—weakened standards that would allow it to sell—hold your breath here—up to $1 trillion in extra gasoline. For a mere expenditure of $196 million through these 12 phony front groups, they got to sell $1 trillion in extra gasoline. That is how you make big money—by renting out the U.S. Government. That, by the way, is $1 trillion that comes out of consumers' pockets and goes into Big Oil's. No wonder Big Oil is hiding behind front groups.

In the press, unnamed auto industry lobbyists have complained that the proposed freeze isn't what they asked for. Well, that is not good enough. Auto industry executives need to step up and tell President Trump and Secretary Chao and Administrator Wheeler that their oily proposal is not acceptable.

This car rule saga that we have seen play out is a microcosm of the climate change problem that we face. The fossil fuel industry, through its armada of phony front groups, fights to defend its own massive sales and massive, massive taxpayer subsidies for its product. The IMF has estimated that the fossil fuel industry receives a $700 billion—with a ''b''—annual subsidy in the United States alone. So it has every incentive to spend whatever it takes to control things in Washington, like giving $196 million to these front groups. Meanwhile, the rest of corporate America, including car companies that claim to support reducing carbon pollution, just don't show up.

One side lobbies Congress against climate action, and the other side doesn't show up. One side spends tens of millions on attack ads against candidates who support climate action, and the other side doesn't show up. One side pours hundreds of millions of dollars into trade associations and phony front groups, and the other side doesn't show up. The result is entirely predictable—money talks, unfortunately, around here, and big money commands.

Things would change a bit if the rest of corporate America would challenge the fossil fuel industry's money and influence to help our colleagues on the other side get something done on climate change.

I close by pointing out that democracy and the free market are the twin pillars of our American example. What does it say for them as institutions when one industry—the fossil fuel industry—can simultaneously capture our democracy and pervert the free market with its massive subsidies? It is not a good story.

America's strength has always been our example. Our inaction on climate change—one of the foremost challenges of the world—sullies our American example. For the good of our country, for the good of those institutions, for the good of our American example, it is time to wake up.

I yield the floor.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on this nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). Is there further debate?

If not, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Brady nomination?

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 56, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 73 Ex.]

YEAS—56

Alexander	Gardner	Perdue
Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hawley	Roberts
Boozman	Hoeven	Romney
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Burr	Inhofe	Rubio
Capito	Isakson	Sasse
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Collins	Jones	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Shelby
Cotton	Lankford	Sinema
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Manchin	Thune
Cruz	McConnell	Tillis
Daines	McSally	Toomey
Enzi	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Murkowski	Young
Fischer	Paul	

NAYS—42

Baldwin	Hassan	Rosen
Bennet	Heinrich	Sanders
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schatz
Brown	Kaine	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Smith
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Udall
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murphy	Warner
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Feinstein	Peters	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Reed	Wyden

NOT VOTING—2

Booker	Harris

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that with respect to the Brady nomination, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

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

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 David Steven Morales, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

Mitch McConnell, Johnny Isakson, Roger F. Wicker, John Boozman, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Shelley Moore Capito, Steve Daines, Roy Blunt, Deb Fischer, David Perdue, Todd Young, John Thune, Mike Rounds, John Hoeven, Thom Tillis, Lindsey Graham.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of David Steven Morales, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) are necessarily absent.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber wishing to vote or to change their vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 57, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 74 Ex.]

YEAS—57

Alexander	Gardner	Paul
Barrasso	Graham	Perdue
Blackburn	Grassley	Portman
Blunt	Hawley	Risch
Boozman	Hoeven	Roberts
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Romney
Burr	Inhofe	Rounds
Capito	Isakson	Rubio
Cassidy	Johnson	Sasse
Collins	Jones	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kaine	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Kennedy	Shelby
Cramer	Lankford	Sinema
Crapo	Lee	Sullivan
Cruz	Manchin	Thune
Daines	McConnell	Tillis
Enzi	McSally	Toomey
Ernst	Moran	Wicker
Fischer	Murkowski	Young

NAYS—41

Baldwin	Hassan	Sanders
Bennet	Heinrich	Schatz
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schumer
Brown	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Smith
Cardin	Leahy	Stabenow
Carper	Markey	Tester
Casey	Menendez	Udall
Coons	Merkley	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warner
Duckworth	Murray	Warren
Durbin	Peters	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Reed	Wyden
Gillibrand	Rosen	

NOT VOTING—2

Booker	Harris

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. On this vote, the yeas are 57, the nays are 41.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of David Steven Morales, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Montana.

HEALTHCARE

Mr. DAINES. Madam President, 2 years ago, I exposed the Democrats' plan for socialized medicine and allowed every Senator here to take a clear stand and reject this disastrous idea once and for all. Unfortunately, very few Senate Democrats were willing to oppose socialized medicine then. Well, they are back at it again today. So now I am here again to shed some much needed light on what seems to be a never-ending game to score political points and, even worse, to set the stage for terrible policy—a continuing call for socialized medicine.

We are seeing this false narrative of ''free socialized medicine'' making headlines, but you see, it is not actually free; somebody has to pay for it. In fact, every single one of us and our kids and our grandkids will be paying for it for a long time if this nonsensical plan becomes reality.

Montanans face enough hardships with rising prescription drug costs and rising premiums. The Democrats' socialized medical scheme will cost the American taxpayer $32 trillion over 10 years—$32 trillion—not to mention that this scheme would kick millions off their healthcare plan and eliminate private health insurance.

In combination with the left's absurd Green New Deal, what we are seeing here today is a pattern when it comes to the Democrats' very liberal and leftist agenda. They don't blink an eye when their liberal policies cost the taxpayers trillions of dollars, and they aren't coming up with feasible solutions.

In fact, too many Montanans are faced with the very tough choice of choosing between health and putting food on the table. Prescription drug prices are out of control. Montanans are sick and tired of being sick and tired. They want Congress to do something. They want results. They want outcomes. That is why I have been fighting for a commonsense solution like my bill, the CREATES Act, which addresses high prescription drug costs and improves access to care in our rural communities.

The left's pie-in-the-sky proposal promises a great deal, but we all know the extent of empty promises in this town. These proposals do nothing but throw hard-working Montanans under the bus, foot the massive tax bill to the taxpayers, and prop up failed policies just to appease a radicalizing base across this country in the Democratic Party. The people of Montana want better than this. They deserve better than this.

To my colleagues who are attempting to make a hard run to the left to score some points within your base, I simply ask this: Will you please put your country over your party? Will you put the interests of the people over your own self-political interests, or will you continue to peddle the lie of socialized medicine to the American people?

I think it is time we get to work, hunker down and roll up our sleeves and produce real results that the people of Montana and across our Nation deserve. They deserve serious answers, and they deserve serious solutions, and it is long overdue that we give them that.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Virginia.

NOMINATION OF JOHN P. ABIZAID

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, I rise to speak today about the vote we cast earlier confirming GEN John Abizaid, Retired, to be U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

I was proud to vote for him. I think he is very well qualified for that position. The position has been vacant since 2017. Other critical countries in this most important region are without Ambassadors—Egypt, Jordan, and Pakistan.

General Abizaid has his work cut out for him, and I want to speak specifically about some of the challenges in Saudi Arabia now.

I believe there is a great day of reckoning that is now pending in the U.S.-Saudi relationship.

Last week, the House of Representatives passed a Senate resolution ordering the President to stop U.S. military action in support of Saudi Arabia's intervention in Yemen's civil war. The Senate had earlier acted on that bill in 2018. It went to the House and died. The Senate took up the bill again recently, and the House passed it. The bill is now on its way to the President's desk.

The President has indicated that he is likely to veto the bill, to continue U.S. support for Saudi military activity in Yemen. If that happens, the bill will come back to the Senate, and the Senate will then have the opportunity to vote on whether that veto should be overridden.

The House vote to withdraw U.S. support for this military activity was 247 to 175. The Senate vote was 54 to 46.

The Yemen civil war has been a humanitarian disaster. Many of my colleagues have spoken at length about this, so I will not speak at length. Just to underline key points, it has been a humanitarian disaster, and the United States should not be involved. Saudi intervention has made it worse.

As of November 2018, nearly 7,000 civilians have been killed, nearly 11,000 had been wounded—the majority by Saudi Arabia-led coalition airstrikes, many of which are targeted and prosecuted in amateurish ways. Those statistics are according to the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for

Human Rights. The actual human casualties are actually much higher because the war has led to famine and disease outbreaks that have killed many more. Thousands have been displaced by fighting, and millions are suffering from shortages of food and medical care, with the country on the brink of famine. There are 12 to 13 million civilians at risk of starvation largely because of the effects of this civil war.

In addition to the poor prosecution of this military activity by Saudi Arabia, there are other issues we have to grapple with.

A Virginia resident who is a Saudi citizen, Jamal Khashoggi, who was a journalist for the Washington Post, criticized the Saudi policy in Yemen. For his advocacy against the war, the Government of Saudi Arabia lured him into their consulate in Istanbul and then tortured and assassinated him, dismembering his body with a bone saw. Then the Saudi Government engaged in a massive misinformation and disinformation campaign, lying to the United States and to the world about what had happened, saying that he had left the Embassy on his own, saying that it had been an accident, coming up with all manner of excuses before the even cursory investigation demonstrated that he had been assassinated.

The U.S. intelligence community is unified in their assessment of what happened to this Virginia resident—a gross violation of human rights to assassinate a journalist, especially in a safe haven, which is what a consulate is supposed to be.

In addition to the brutal murder of Jamal Khashoggi, Saudi Arabia has been arresting civil rights activists for years, including, recently, two Virginia residents—Aziza al-Youssef, who is a Saudi citizen who studied at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond and then went to back to Saudi Arabia to teach women computer science. Her son, Salah al-Haidar, also has been arrested for advocating for women's rights. What rights are they advocating for? The right of women to drive. The right of women to make some of their own decisions under Saudi law. Decisions by women cannot be made independently but must generally be agreed to by a father or a husband. Simply for advocating that women be treated as equal, with equal rights, these Virginia residents and many others have been jailed and tortured.

One would think that the United States would be up in arms about the assassination of a U.S. resident journalist, about the arrest of U.S. residents, including U.S. citizens advocating for women's rights, but that is not the case. The President refuses to submit a report determining whether Jamal Khashoggi's murder was a human rights violation.

The Magnitsky Act was designed to promote cooperation between the legislative and the executive branches. When Congress has information that suggests there is a significant human rights violation by a foreign government, we write a letter to the President. The President has 120 days to investigate and then offer a determination as to whether there was a human rights violation. It is a cooperative dialogue. We wrote the letter, 120 days passed, and President Trump and the administration will not answer it. They will not say there was a human rights violation. They will not say there wasn't a human rights violation.

I am not aware of their doing this for any other nation. For Saudi Arabia, they are ignoring the clear requirements of the Magnitsky Act. President Trump said: ''It could very well be that the Crown Prince had knowledge of this event—maybe he did and maybe he didn't.'' That comment is at odds with the assessment of the U.S. intelligence community that this assassination was an official act of the Saudi Arabian Government that would not have happened without the knowledge of the Crown Prince, M.B.S.

The relationship following these arrests and this assassination has not been downgraded or suffered repercussions within this administration—in fact, to the contrary. Two weeks ago, right before an Armed Services Committee hearing where Secretary of Energy Rick Perry was testifying, we learned that the Trump administration has approved secret transfers of nuclear technical information from American companies to Saudi Arabia on seven occasions since 2017. These transfers are called Part 810 authorizations. They require an approval of the Department of Energy. Under my cross-examination, Secretary Perry was forced to confirm that, yes, the administration has authorized on seven occasions transfers of this nuclear know-how to Saudi Arabia.

In the past, when these transfers were approved, they were made public so that the American public and Congress could exercise oversight on which nations in the world are being given nuclear technology, but in this instance and possibly others in this administration, the approvals were kept secret.

Why are they secret now? We know that Saudi Arabia is intent on building a nuclear program. That is well covered. But they haven't agreed to the nonproliferation rules that would prevent the development of nuclear weapons. The Nuclear Non-Proliferation treaty is a bedrock principle of international law that the United States has supported for a very long time.

The principle is simple. We would not want countries to get nuclear technology unless they give us guarantees that technology is only for peaceful use, medical research, power production but not to produce nuclear weapons.

We are transferring this technical know-how to the Saudi Arabian Government secretly, without yet requiring that they sign on to the important safety protections in the NPT. It is only logical that Congress would want to know more about these approvals to make sure they don't spark a nuclear arms race in the Middle East.

In the recent hearing, I asked Secretary Perry about whether the secret approvals of nuclear information transfer occurred before or after the October 2018 murder of Jamal Khashoggi. He claimed not to know. He has indicated he would provide that information in response to written questions. I submitted the written questions. He has still not provided the information. It is wrong to do these transfers without letting Congress know; it is wrong to do these transfers when Saudi Arabia has not yet agreed to the principles that would disallow nuclear proliferation; and it would certainly be wrong to agree to transfers of this kind of information after the assassination of Jamal Khashoggi, but as of yet the administration hasn't given us the data.

Beyond just the timing, who is getting these secret approvals? Secretary Perry said the approvals were secret because there is proprietary information. Companies might not want to have information that they have developed through their own research available to all, but that doesn't explain it. You don't have to give the proprietary information to indicate what company has gotten an approval on what day to do the transfer.

Who is getting these secret approvals? One major nuclear firm, Westinghouse, has been reported as a frontrunner in the competitive effort to do nuclear reactor construction in Saudi Arabia. Westinghouse is owned by the same investors who bailed White House adviser Jared Kushner out of a bad real estate deal. Remember, Jared Kushner was originally denied a security clearance in the White House due to concerns about foreign influence and personal financial conflicts. Additional reporting connects disgraced National Security Advisor Michael Flynn—who has been convicted for lying about his ties to and communication with foreign governments—to the push for the Saudi nuclear deal.

Finally, earlier today, I asked Secretary Pompeo in a Foreign Relations Committee hearing about public reports in The National Interest, in September of 2018, that say the Saudis have a robust anti-ballistic missile program that has been largely built on Chinese missiles—missiles from China that were constructed originally to carry nuclear warheads—but that the Saudis have apparently used with nonnuclear payloads or outfitted with nonnuclear payloads.

The National Interest article that I entered into the RECORD, dated September 21, 2018, indicated that, in Saudi Arabia, these missiles have been arranged so some of them would be directed toward Tehran and others would be directed toward Israel. All of these

issues are on the table: poor prosecution of a civil war leading to humanitarian disaster, the murder of a U.S. resident journalist, the arrest of U.S. residents for women's rights activism, secret transfers of nuclear technology without letting Congress know, and then the story I asked Secretary Pompeo about today. The buildup of an anti-ballistic missile program based significantly on Chinese missiles leads me to ask: Why would we help Saudi Arabia in a disastrous war in Yemen? Why would we turn a blind eye to Saudi human rights abuses? Why would we transfer nuclear know-how and plan for a nuclear deal with Saudi Arabia when they haven't agreed to nonproliferation rules that we expect other Nations to agree to in a way that would possibly spark an arms race in the Middle East? My final question is, who in the United States is benefiting from this?

When I asked the Secretary of State this morning, again, on the dates of the nuclear approvals and did they occur before or after the assassination of Jamal Khashoggi, I am sure he knew I was going to ask him that question. I asked Secretary Perry the question 2 weeks ago. I submitted that question for the record. He knew I was going to ask him that question, and he said he couldn't give me any information about the approvals; he would have to get back to me about them.

Congress is not a student government. Congress is supposed to, as the article I branch, exercise oversight over important matters. There is hardly anything more important than the spread of nuclear technologies that could be used to proliferate weapons of mass destruction anywhere in the world, especially in a region as dangerous as the Middle East.

These are the items that Ambassador Abizaid will need to deal with in his new role, but we need to exercise proper congressional oversight of this relationship because there are so many problems with it right now that are not being addressed by this administration. I think only Congress can address them. I hope my colleagues will join me with that oversight.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

NOMINATION OF DAVID BERNHARDT

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, the Senate is just hours away from voting on whether to confirm David Bernhardt to head the Interior Department. He would replace Ryan Zinke, who was forced from office in the eye of an ethical hurricane. I am here tonight to put the Senate on notice that I believe, if David Bernhardt is confirmed as Interior Secretary, another ethical storm will be on us in the very near future. The Zinke ethics hurricane was bad enough. America should not be harmed again if it is followed by a Bernhardt ethical typhoon.

I believe the Bernhardt nomination ought to be stopped in its tracks right here, right now. At a minimum, the Senate ought to put on hold this whole matter until we can gather more information so an informed decision can be based on all the facts.

At this moment, with the debate hurtling possibly toward an end, there are four pending requests by a dozen Senators, including myself, for inspector general investigations of the issues involving Mr. Bernhardt. In the other body, there are a host of requests for investigations as well. There has been a lot of speculation about how all of these issues have been aired.

This is old news, say some. The fact is, that is not right. This doesn't go back months. My concerns aren't information that has been sitting out in public view for years. The prospect of an investigation is developing in real time right now. I am going to run through some of the basic facts before getting into deeper details.

First, according to the Office of Government Ethics, Mr. Bernhardt has 27 different former clients who are posing a potential of unlimited numbers of conflicts of interests—oil clients, coal clients, water clients, major ag and resources clients. All of them have business before the Department that the Interior Secretary is supposed to be running for the benefit of the public, not for special interests.

My sense is, with all of these conflicts, Mr. Bernhardt would have basically two choices; one, he could comply with the ethics pledge and pretty much recuse himself from everything. Lord knows what he would be doing all day because he would have to recuse himself; or two, he would basically do business and just violate the ethical principles.

Lately, he seems to have been on what seems like a victory parade on Capitol Hill, touting what he says is a record of being a champion of ethics, but if you take a look at that record and take a look at what was said during his confirmation hearing, as my son William Peter Wyden, age 11—pictures available on my iPhone after my presentation—would say, that Bernhardt statement was one big whopper.

Mr. Bernhardt served as Deputy Secretary to Ryan Zinke. All through this parade of environmental horrors that were visited upon us, Mr. Bernhardt was the key man in that office. There is not one shred of evidence that Mr. Bernhardt objected to Ryan Zinke's corruption. There is no evidence of it. Just think about it. He is always described as the guy who made the Interior Department run and that he was the key to all of these pieces. Ryan Zinke is out there with flagrant conflicts of interest and the like. Yet there is no evidence that Mr. Bernhardt—the self-styled expert on ethics—ever objected to anything.

Second, not even 2 weeks ago, Mr. Bernhardt came before the Energy and Natural Resources Committee for his nomination. He admitted that he had a role in blocking a landmark scientific report on toxic pesticides—the kind of report that career, nonpartisan scientists and staff spend years developing in close consultation with Department lawyers. Mr. Bernhardt's excuse for blocking the report was that it needed to be ''read by the lawyers,'' and he gave the impression to the Energy and Natural Resources Committee and the country—people were following it on C–SPAN—he gave the impression, when he said it needed to be read by the lawyers, as though that was not already the routine. His claim doesn't pass the smell test. I believe he lied to the Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Third, let's talk about his lobbying. Mr. Bernhardt deregistered as a lobbyist to join the Trump transition team before the President's inauguration. There is evidence he kept right on lobbying, nonetheless, in violation of the law. There is a whole lot of talk about mislabeled invoices and simple errors that attempted to explain it all the way. The fact is, there were multiple cases in which Mr. Bernhardt was engaged in activities that made him the de facto lobbyist, carrying on with the same job he had been doing all along.

So you have a pattern of unethical behavior right in front of our eyes. He said he had to do this lawyering. There hadn't been any lawyering. Then we go back and look at the rules, and they say that in these situations, there is lawyering all the way through the process. That is why I am very troubled about his trustworthiness.

After Ryan Zinke's departure, every Senator ought to be interested in restoring integrity and honor to the Interior Department. Yet the Trump administration has double downed on its commitment to graft by nominating David Bernhardt for this job. As I mentioned, there are pending requests for inspector general investigations. I have also called for an investigation by the U.S. attorney. Neither of those has had adequate time to respond, but the majority leader has rushed this nomination to the floor.

To indicate how fast the nomination is moving, the President obviously nominated Mr. Bernhardt to lead the Interior Department less than a month ago. Less than 2 weeks ago, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee held the confirmation hearing on his nomination. Exactly a week later, the committee voted to approve it. One week after that, the Senate may choose to vote on his final confirmation. I just think it is a grave mistake to be moving forward with so many serious unanswered questions, and let me go through the history about why.

The Interior Department is still reeling from Ryan Zinke and what I call this self-generated ethical hurricane. In addition to overseeing the largest rollback of Federal land protections in American history, Ryan Zinke triggered so many Federal inquiries and investigations before he resigned in

shame that you can't even easily track them. By most public reporting, he triggered at least 17 different Federal inquiries before he officially left office at the start of the year: the inappropriate censorship of scientific reports, the wasting of tens of thousands—if not hundreds of thousands—of dollars on office doors and chartered flights, and of cutting potentially illegal land deals with oil industry executives. His rap sheet basically goes on and on. It is as long as the Columbia River. In his brief tenure, Ryan Zinke demonstrated that he was better at corrupt self-dealing than he was at protecting our treasured public lands.

I mentioned David Bernhardt was Mr. Zinke's Deputy, and he was the Solicitor for the Interior Department during the Bush administration. He knows a lot about how the Department works.

I want to say this to my colleagues: If this is a guy who is hands on and if he really understands the Department of the Interior, I think you have to wonder why Mr. Bernhardt never seems to have objected to any of Mr. Zinke's corrupt activities.

The Interior Department, unfortunately, isn't new to scandal, and I am going to take a brief moment to look back at one particular scandal that relates to these matters—Julie MacDonald, a notoriously corrupt Interior official during the George W. Bush administration who was forced to resign.

In December of 2006, after an anonymous complaint sparked an investigation, the inspector general released a report showing that Ms. MacDonald had given internal Department documents to industry lobbyists and that she had run roughshod over career Department staff who tried to stand in her way.

I had serious concerns about the report and what was happening at the Department. So, literally, more than a decade ago, I placed a hold on a nominee to the Interior Department, pending some accountability for these flagrant abuses by Ms. MacDonald. The next day, which was months after the original report became public, she finally resigned. Later that year, I requested an expanded probe into Interior decisions related to the Endangered Species Act that Ms. MacDonald had been involved in.

There was evidence of her meddling having directly affected species in the Pacific Northwest. The Interior's inspector general released a report. According to the New York Times, it found ''Ms. MacDonald's zeal to advance her agenda has caused considerable harm to the integrity of the Endangered Species Act program and to the morale and reputation of the Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as potential harm to individual species.''

I bring this up because here is where David Bernhardt figures into the story.

A few weeks ago, I was surprised that Mr. Bernhardt requested to meet with me in my office. I said I would be glad to do it. When nominees come by, I usually just start with the questions: Why should I vote for you? Why should I be supportive? It is kind of an easy way for the nominee to get into it. That is why I do it.

What Mr. Bernhardt said was that he was a big ethics champion.

He said: Hey, do you remember Julie MacDonald? I am captain ethics. I advised Julie MacDonald to clean up her act.

I didn't ask Mr. Bernhardt about Julie MacDonald. He brought it up.

I have met with a lot of nominees, and I have heard a lot of reasons as to why they deserve my vote, but this meeting was certainly a head-scratcher. A nominee who had been present for Ryan Zinke's reign of corruption and conflict and who had seemed not to do anything about it had shown up, at his request, to tout his own ethics.

A few hours after the meeting in my office with Mr. Bernhardt, I decided I would look at his record for myself. Interior Department documents that had been obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request showed he had recently blocked the release of a Fish and Wildlife report about the effects of dangerous, toxic pesticides.

Career staff at the Fish and Wildlife Service, an Interior Department Agency, were on the brink of completing a comprehensive report on the impact of three pesticides on, potentially, hundreds of endangered species. This was a report by career staff. It was not put together by people who were political appointees. It defined pesticides that were so dangerous and so toxic that they jeopardized the continued existence of more than 1,000 species. This report, had it been made public, would have had profound consequences for pesticide manufacturers in the businesses that had used them.

The dedicated team of career staff at the Fish and Wildlife Service that had worked so long on this in order to make sure they really dug into the science—and they took years to be fastidious about it—wanted to make it public. The team was working rapidly to submit its findings to the Environmental Protection Agency for its review.

The documents show that before this landmark report could make it into public view, Mr. Bernhardt came along and pushed himself into the middle of the process. The documents show his emails on the pesticide report. He demanded briefings from these career scientists. They show meetings with White House officials and others about the specific section of the law that governs the role of Fish and Wildlife in these types of assessments. There is even included an email in which Mr. Bernhardt edited the letter that Interior officials used to block the release of the pesticide report. There were digital fingerprints everywhere.

I have to say that I looked at this, and I said: This sure sounds like Julie MacDonald all over again. The guy who said: ''Hey, I was the one who pushed Julie MacDonald to clean up her act,'' looked like he was meddling with the science just the way Julie MacDonald was. Ms. MacDonald was found by the inspector general to have meddled with the scientific conclusions, and now there is David Bernhardt, who has been alleged to have manipulated the process and blocked the release of an Endangered Species Act report.

So Mr. Bernhardt came to say that his ethics were unimpeachable and that he was above reproach. Yet I will tell you, for my colleagues who are thinking about this, if you read the documents I read from the Freedom of Information Act, they make him sound like another Julie MacDonald. I worked through all of these documents, and they left me with the impression that Mr. Bernhardt had lied to me about his ethics during our one-on-one meeting as well. It left me wondering why he would go out of his way to talk up his ethics when he must have known the truth was going to come out eventually.

During his confirmation hearing, he claimed he would strive to bring a culture of ethical compliance. He said he hoped to overhaul the ethics of the Ryan Zinke period and the Julie MacDonald experience. Senators called his qualifications unparalleled and claimed that the allegations of ethical misconduct against him were false. I respect those colleagues who have their opinions. I have my own, and my opinions are going to be based on the documents.

The document I entered into the record at his confirmation hearing showed that the pesticide industry repeatedly asked political appointees at the Interior Department and at the Environmental Protection Agency to intervene in the scientific analysis. It showed that Mr. Bernhardt eventually did so.

According to documents that had been made public by the Freedom of Information Act, a pesticide industry attorney wrote to then-Secretary Zinke and then-Administrator Scott Pruitt on April 13 of 2017. The pesticide industry was asking for changes to the Endangered Species Act. The industry followed it up very shortly with a request to meet with the Environmental Protection Agency's staff. At that time, a pesticide industry executive called an attorney of the Interior Department for a meeting as well. Another official from a pesticide trade association reached out to the same Interior Department attorney to discuss the Endangered Species Act.

Other supporting documentation consisted of an email that was dated October 5, 2017, from Mr. Bernhardt to Gary Frazer, the Fish and Wildlife Service's Assistant Director, who handles these endangered species. He ''was the top official overseeing the assessment of the impact,'' according to the press, while looking at the implications of these pesticides. In this email, Mr. Bernhardt asked Mr. Frazer for a briefing the following week. Additional documents

show that Mr. Bernhardt held a series of meetings with Mr. Frazer over the next 3 weeks.

On October 30, according to the calendar released by the Freedom of Information Act, Mr. Bernhardt met with White House officials to discuss Endangered Species Act provisions. It is called section 7. That is the section that pertains to the role that the Fish and Wildlife plays in ensuring other Agencies aren't jeopardizing species.

An email from November of 2017 shows Mr. Bernhardt edited the draft of a letter from career Fish and Wildlife Service staff to the EPA. It announced the Interior Department wouldn't be delivering the Fish and Wildlife's assessment to the Agency as planned. This, colleagues, is where Mr. Bernhardt put the brakes on this important Fish and Wildlife report about the pesticides.

According to a New York Times report, the pesticide analysis was blocked in conjunction with a ''radical shift'' in how the Fish and Wildlife analyzes the effects of these pesticides. The change greatly increased the burden of proof the Agency is required to meet to demonstrate pesticide effects on species. According to that article in the Times, it would likely result in fewer new restrictions on pesticide use. CropLife and RISE—two trade associations that represent the pesticide companies—were very much in favor of this. They were praising it.

Based on the documents, at the hearing, I asked Mr. Bernhardt why he would come to my office and sell me on ethics when the reports and the documents I just read showed otherwise. He had no response.

At the hearing, I asked Mr. Bernhardt specifically why he would come to the office and make these claims. He had no response at the hearing but took a long sip of water as though he had meant to go on awhile. Mr. Bernhardt made the claim that career Fish and Wildlife staff ''clearly'' didn't complete any legal review on the pesticide report, which is why he stepped in.

During the hearing and while under oath, I believe Mr. Bernhardt confirmed allegations that he interfered with the release of an Endangered Species Act report. He didn't, however, acknowledge that his involvement was inappropriate political meddling.

Following the hearing and with serious questions remaining about whether he had lied under oath to the committee, I wrote the Interior Department's inspector general for her help in getting to the bottom of the matter. Here are the facts I included:

On March 28, 2019, Mr. Bernhardt appeared before the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for his confirmation hearing to become Secretary of the Department of the Interior. I questioned him about these documents and his role in blocking the Fish and Wildlife's analyses. He confirmed to me that he had reviewed the analyses. He claimed he believed the analyses had not been subject to legal review and made the determination to delay the report.

Second, Mr. Bernhardt's response:

> You're dealing with some of the most difficult consultations on the planet, and when I read the document, my reaction to it was this is really an interesting draft. But it clearly didn't have any legal review, and in our world you can't ignore the law and come up with a scheme.

He continued:

> And so what we decided is that the approach needed to be readdressed.

Mr. Bernhardt's answer is totally off base with respect to the way legal analyses work.

Under standard procedure, there would be legal analysis through the development of this kind of fish and wildlife report. It would involve lawyers at Fish and Wildlife, Interior Department, or both.

So I am especially troubled by what appears to be a political appointee meddling in the scientific process with respect to a report that revealed the extraordinary danger of toxic pesticides.

I am the senior member on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, a former chairman of the committee. I cannot recall ever having this kind of exchange with a nominee.

That is why I had to request that the Office of Inspector General investigate the following: What role did Mr. Bernhardt and other political appointees at the Interior Department play in delaying or obstructing the Fish and Wildlife Service pesticide report? What role did he play in changing Fish and Wildlife policy with regard to this key section in the Endangered Species Act? What role did other political appointees—Agriculture Senior Advisor, former CropLife lobbyist, Ms. Adcock—play in the Interior Department and Fish and Wildlife Service's decision making? Whether, as Mr. Bernhardt alleged to me under oath on March 28, 2019, the Fish and Wildlife draft analysis ''clearly didn't have any legal review'' and whether, as Mr. Bernhardt alleged to me, career lawyers at the Interior Department agreed with his analysis—these are all questions that haven't been answered.

I would just say to the Senate, if you need more evidence that there are too many questions to allow this nomination to move forward, the story just gets more complicated.

After Mr. Bernhardt demonstrated that he simply was going to dance around the truth, the Senate has to question his basic understanding of the law.

So on Monday, I asked the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia to thoroughly investigate potential civil and criminal violations of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 by Mr. Bernhardt, as well as his former lobbying firm.

By the way, again, a newspaper reports—this time the Washington Post—that Mr. Bernhardt's ex-firm has quadrupled its business, earning nearly $5 million to lobby the Interior Department since he has taken his most recent spin through the Interior Department revolving door.

So here is what I said to the U.S. attorney: Lobbying Disclosure Act filings show Mr. Bernhardt registered to lobby for his law firm on behalf of the Westlands Water District on March 30, 2011. Westlands is the largest agricultural water district in the United States, in central California. Public reporting indicates Mr. Bernhardt ran his former lobby firm's natural resources department.

That lobby firm filed its 2016 fourth quarter report on November 18, 2016—1 week after the 2016 Presidential election—terminating Mr. Bernhardt's lobbying status as of that day.

Public reporting at the time indicates Mr. Bernhardt ''delisted himself as a lobbyist in November after Trump won the election to avoid running afoul of the new President's ban on lobbyists joining his administration.''

Public reporting and documents obtained via public records show that Mr. Bernhardt maintained his relationship with Westlands after his lobbyist deregistration on November 18, 2016. Furthermore, he may have repeatedly engaged in activity that would require him to continue registering as a Federal lobbyist. So he claimed he was no longer a lobbyist, but it sure looks as though he went right on lobbying.

The Lobbying Disclosure Act is pretty clear. I will read from public guidance provided by the U.S. House of Representatives. A lobbyist can terminate their registration ''only when the individual's lobbying activities on behalf of that client did not constitute at the end of the quarter . . . 20 percent of the time that such employee is engaged in total activities for that client; or that individual doesn't reasonably expect to make further lobbying contacts.''

What does the law mean by ''lobbying contacts?'' That is pretty clear too. The same guidance says it is ''any oral, written, or electronic communication to a covered Federal official that is made on behalf of a client'' with regard to Federal legislation, rulemaking, executive orders and the like. ''Covered Federal officials'' include all Members of Congress and their staff.

The evidence I included in my request to the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia included several emails showing Mr. Bernhardt may have engaged in repeated, regulated lobbying contacts with covered Federal legislative branch officials.

The first time, according to the information that is already public, appears to be on November 22, 2016, just a few days after he deregistered as a lobbyist. Mr. Bernhardt agreed to join a conference call with Westlands and the offices of Representative DEVIN NUNES and former Representative Valadao to discuss upcoming legislation.

The second and third times are covered in a complaint filed with the U.S.

attorney's office in 2017. That complaint included copies of emails documenting Mr. Bernhardt's role in 2016 and 2017 as an intermediary for congressional staff and Westlands. It also appeared to include a trip to California for Mr. Bernhardt, paid for by Westlands.

So here is what it appears happened: Mr. Bernhardt provided his client, Westlands, with information about legislative efforts in 2016 and 2017. His old lobbying firm also disclosed lobbying on behalf of Westlands on those same legislative efforts over the same timeframe.

Another new report shows that Mr. Bernhardt was also in contact in December 2016 with a Senate employee covered by lobbying regulations.

On March 8, 2017, his old lobby firm sent Westlands an invoice for more than $27,000 for ''Federal lobbying.'' It included an itemized list of expenses related to Mr. Bernhardt's January 2017 travel to California for a ''Westlands'' trip.

On April 20, 2017, the lobbying firm filed its 2017 first quarter disclosure that is required by the Lobbying Disclosure Act. It showed Westlands paid the firm $70,000 for lobbying services related to H.R. 1769, a bill involving the San Luis unit drainage district, among other measures. It was a longstanding priority for Westlands—a money-making opportunity. It was sponsored by then-Representative Valadao, one of the Congressmen Mr. Bernhardt appears to have been in contact with on November 22, 2016, and January 2, 2017.

The lobby firm's 2017 first quarter disclosure was filed shortly after the firm sent Westlands the March invoice for Mr. Bernhardt's February 2017 ''Federal lobbying'' activity.

According to a media report in July of 2017, a Westlands representative claimed Bernhardt ceased all lobbying activity ''the moment he deregistered as a lobbyist.'' In May of 2017, during his confirmation process to be Deputy Secretary, Mr. Bernhardt also claimed in writing to the committee he had ''not engaged in regulated lobbying on behalf of Westlands Water District after November 18, 2016.''

These Bernhardt claims simply do not line up with the documents. Perhaps that is why he refused when one of my colleagues requested he provide complete records relating to any communications he had with covered legislative branch officials after the date of his deregistration.

Let me repeat that.

When one of the Senators on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee asked Mr. Bernhardt to provide documents that would help the committee get to the bottom of this issue, he just stonewalled. He just refused.

The Lobbying Disclosure Act isn't that burdensome. The firm and Mr. Bernhardt could have chosen to disclose his lobbying activity on behalf of Westlands. They chose not to do so, so everybody is going to ask why.

The U.S. attorney's office is responsible for enforcement of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995. So this week I wrote to the U.S. attorney, requesting a thorough investigation.

I have spent this time highlighting some of the major reasons that make me feel strongly that Mr. Bernhardt's nomination should not move forward at this time. Chief among them are that I have two pending requests for investigations at this time, neither of which have been responded to because it has been a short time and the majority leader is interested in steamrolling this flawed nominee by the American people.

I am just going to conclude my remarks by summarizing a couple of Mr. Bernhardt's greatest hits with respect to why he is thoroughly unqualified to be Secretary of the Department of Interior.

The first is the matter of the conflicts. He is a former oil lobbyist. In fact, at one point, I was going to say that he was the oil industry's guy, but the oil industry lobbyists beat me to it. A secret tape came out, and they were quoted as saying: We are glad he is our guy. Dozens of his ex-clients have business before Interior. According to his ethics pledge, he should be conflicted out of working on those issues. If he remains involved, he will be flagrantly violating his ethics pledge. So if he follows the rules and stays out of all of these issues his clients have before the Department, I will tell you, for the life of me, I can't figure out what he is going to do all day because he is going to be conflicted out of all of these matters that are going to be before the Department.

Just last week, Mr. Bernhardt's previously unrevealed calendars were partially made public. To nobody's surprise, many of those secret meetings have been with industry. This is yet another item that Congress, including the other body, has asked for more information about.

So the damage has been done. The conflicts are clear. He has already taken actions that benefit his former clients and former employers.

He has taken steps specifically to weaken the Endangered Species Act—worked to weaken wildlife protections for a California fish species, according to another investigation. This weakening of protections for the California fish species is a policy change that one of Mr. Bernhardt's former clients—Westlands Water District—had been pushing for for years.

Mr. Bernhardt's Interior announced that the Agency is basically going to stop holding oil companies accountable for oilspills by ending enforcement of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. This move has been long supported by yet another energy lobby, another one of Mr. Bernhardt's former clients.

Mr. Bernhardt's Interior Department increased drilling and mining access on millions of acres of sage-grouse habitat across five Western States. That drilling will be conducted by companies, again, linked to Mr. Bernhardt. It could make the sage-grouse an endangered species, and it could endanger the livelihoods of ranching families on the rural frontier who are just hoping to preserve their traditional way of life.

Mr. Bernhardt continues delivering for the oil and gas industry. A CNN report found the Agency has advanced at least 15 policies supported by his former clients during his time at Interior Department—everything from the elimination of BLM's methane reduction rules and gutting safety rules for natural gas drilling on public lands, to risking the lives of workers by reducing safety standards for offshore drilling. I don't think it is any big surprise why those oil executives were cheering about Mr. Bernhardt's nomination and calling him, literally, their guy.

During the longest government shutdown on record, when national parks were unstaffed and overflowing with human waste, Mr. Bernhardt even recalled Interior employees to specifically approve hundreds of drilling permits. Certainly, the oil and gas giants are getting their money's worth.

To cap off my list, Mr. Bernhardt's Interior Department even proposed opening up the entire U.S. coastline for offshore oil drilling.

I am heading home. I am sure my colleague from North Dakota and other Senators are also. I am having town meetings and listening to people. There isn't going to be anybody who comes to my town meetings starting in the next couple of days who wants to see the Oregon coastline up for offshore drilling or who wants to see the oil derricks at Haystack Rock, and they don't want to be standing on our beaches holding oil-soaked sponges.

The entire time Mr. Bernhardt has been at the Interior Department, his former lobbying firm has just been raking in the cash. So the question really becomes: Has he already broken the law? My bottom line is that the Senate ought to take the time to actually look into that issue. It isn't some trivial matter after the self-generated Zinke ethical hurricane.

Shouldn't we say, after that ethics horror show, that it is the job of every Member in the Senate—every Democrat and every Republican—to work for policies that bring honor and credibility back to the Interior Department? I just don't think that is going to be the case if this body confirms David Bernhardt.

We will be voting, at least tonight, on the procedure, and depending on how that goes, we may be voting on final passage.

I will just tell you that I don't want to be back on this floor in a matter of months talking about yet another Interior leader, like Ryan Zinke, forced from office as the result of a grotesque scandal. The Senate doesn't have to leave the door of the Interior Department wide open for more conflicted individuals to waltz into positions of

power where they can work against the interests of the American people. I believe that is exactly what America will get from David Bernhardt.

I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing this nomination.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAMER). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. UDALL. 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. UDALL. Mr. President, I rise today to oppose this rush to confirm David Bernhardt to serve as the 53rd Secretary of the Interior.

The Secretary of the Interior is the chief steward of nearly 500 million acres of public lands and 1.7 billion acres of the Outer Continental Shelf. The Interior Secretary is charged with managing the public's natural resources and protecting our Nation's most iconic spaces for now and for generations to come, and the Secretary has the duty of making sure that our trust and treaty responsibilities to American Indians and Alaska Natives are met. It is essential to have the right individual serving in this position—someone who has a record of honoring these critical responsibilities and someone who will approach the solemn duties with only the interests of the American people at the top of his or her agenda.

After considering the whole of Mr. Bernhardt's record, especially the open questions about his actions that have benefited his former clients, I cannot vote to confirm this nominee. His policies are too slanted toward private interests, and as a former lobbyist for many of these interests, his conflicts are too many. Any discussion of this nomination must begin there—by addressing the serious conflicts of interest that Mr. Bernhardt brings to this role and by addressing the ethical cloud that is plainly hanging over this nomination.

I am rising today to call on the Republican leadership to put a halt to this nomination until that ethical cloud can be cleared, and if that cloud cannot be cleared, then, Mr. Bernhardt should be withdrawn.

The concerns that have been raised are serious. Let's talk about a few of them.

Much has been made of Mr. Bernhardt's ethics pledge and whether he has complied with the letter of the law, but we all know that he certainly has not complied with the spirit of the law. The Interior Department has begun or completed at least 19 policy actions requested or supported by at least 16 of Mr. Bernhardt's former clients since he came to Interior, according to just 1 analysis.

Mr. Bernhardt's ethics pledge didn't stop him from trying to divert water to his former client, Westlands Water District in California's Central Valley, one of the largest agricultural water users in the county. On their behalf, Mr. Bernhardt sought to weaken protections for endangered fish species so that his client could pump more water. While an Interior official ''verbally'' ruled that he could participate in the matter, outside ethics experts disagreed. Mr. Bernhardt is clearly making a decision that directly benefits one of his former clients.

Last month, I wrote to the DOI inspector general requesting an investigation into this matter. The Senate should know the outcome of such reviews before considering a Cabinet nominee. Otherwise, we are flying blind when it comes to a nominee's fitness for office.

Just last week, it came to light that Mr. Bernhardt continued to work with Westlands after he filed notice that he was no longer lobbying on its behalf. He filed his notice on November 2016, but invoices from Mr. Bernhardt's firm show that he worked with his client all the way up to his nomination for Deputy Secretary.

A spokeswoman claims that the work was not technically ''lobbying,'' but the fact is that Mr. Bernhardt's actions are benefiting his former clients. Westlands is getting the relief from the Endangered Species Act that they have sought for years.

Once again, we need to know the full truth before we can vote on a nominee of such consequence.

Americans deserve to have confidence in the impartiality of public officials, but how can they when the Trump administration has become a revolving door of lobbyists and industry advocates?

As an attorney and lobbyist, Mr. Bernhardt built a profitable career trying to open public lands for development for his clients, and he spent years attacking the foundation of the Endangered Species Act. The problem is that since assuming his role as Deputy Secretary, he has continued to advocate for policies that benefit these same special interests.

He helped to open millions of acres of public lands to oil and gas drilling, while looking to limit public input, and helped to gut protections that would mitigate the environmental harm of such development.

He has tried to manipulate and bury the science of toxic pesticides that threaten endangered species. He has largely ignored the science of climate change. None of this is a personal attack on the Deputy Secretary, but we simply should not install private industry's representatives to run the Department of the Interior, because when we do, the American people pay the price.

Just look at the policy outcomes. Climate change, for instance, is an existential issue—the most pressing issue facing our planet. The Department of the Interior oversees 20 percent of the lands in our Nation. These lands and their ecosystems and wildlife are threatened by a changing climate: drought and wildfires in the Southwest, wildfires and flooding in California, and hurricanes in the Southeast.

Mr. Bernhardt has been clear that climate science will take a backseat to the President's politics. Under Mr. Bernhardt's guidance, the Department is blatantly ignoring the science of climate change. The Department took down its climate change web page, rescinded orders and policies aimed at addressing the impacts of climate change, and gutted the methane emission control rule at the behest of the worst performers in the oil and gas industry.

Mr. Bernhardt now has the audacity to claim that there are no laws on the books that require Interior to act on climate change, all because his administration has attempted to dismantle every rule or regulation that requires the Department to take action.

Very concerning is Mr. Bernhardt's role as the Trump administration's architect of opening public lands for unfettered energy development. In the last 2 years, Interior has auctioned off more than 16.8 million acres of public land for oil and gas drilling. In the first quarter of 2019, nearly 2.3 million more acres were put on the auction block. That includes potential lease sales within striking distance of the Chaco Culture National Historical Park, a UNESCO world heritage site sacred to the Tribes. That is why I just introduced legislation to permanently establish a 10-mile buffer surrounding Chaco so that we can enjoy this culturally significant area for generations to come without the constant threat of development.

The Department has tried to open up nearly all coastal waters for offshore drilling and is speeding toward selling leases to drill in the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge—home to Native American Tribes and an area that supports a diversity of wildlife in a wild and untamed setting unlike any other on this planet. There are nearly 250 species, from caribou and grizzly bears to wolves and migratory birds. Yet this administration, under Mr. Bernhardt, is racing toward an outcome that could decimate this unique, grand, and biologically rich place.

The Endangered Species Act stands as the Nation's commitment to protect wildlife from extinction. Protecting biodiversity is more important now than ever, as we see animal and plant species dying off in record numbers due to the loss of habitat and climate change.

Mr. Bernhardt has had the ESA in his sights for a long time. Under his leadership, Interior has now proposed allowing economic considerations to override wildlife protections. Extinction is becoming just another cost of doing business.

As I mentioned, on behalf of his former client Westlands, Mr. Bernhardt

sought to weaken protections for endangered fish species, the delta smelt, and the Chinook salmon so that Westlands could pump more water. Mr. Bernhardt has looked to implement the very same policies he lobbied for, from within the walls of the Department. As Deputy Secretary, Mr. Bernhardt also dismantled a landmark agreement among bipartisan western Governors to protect the greater sage-grouse, opening up millions of acres of its habitat to oil and gas drilling without protections.

The Endangered Species Act should be classified as ''endangered'' under Mr. Bernhardt's client-friendly Interior Department.

Let's talk about another extinction risk: chlorpyrifos. Chlorpyrifos is not yet a household name like DDT, but it will be. It is a dangerous neurotoxin used in agriculture throughout the United States. It is linked to brain damage in children and can cause serious harm to human health and wildlife.

In 2016, scientists from the EPA recommended a ban on all uses of this toxic pesticide. One of Scott Pruitt's first actions as EPA Administrator was to rescind that proposed ban. One of Mr. Bernhardt's early actions as Deputy Secretary was to bury a scientific study concluding that chlorpyrifos and another pesticide could ''jeopardize the continued existence'' of more than 1,200 endangered birds, fish, and other animals and plants. Let me repeat. More than 1,200 birds, fish, and other species are at risk of extinction from two toxic pesticides. Mr. Bernhardt reportedly ordered the staff to go back to the drawing board to block the release of this report.

I have been working to get chlorpyrifos off the market with legislation, and the Federal courts have ordered EPA to move forward with the ban. There is no good reason chlorpyrifos is still in use except that it is manufactured by a powerful DowDuPont company. Mr. Bernhardt's withdrawal of the scientific study serves Big Chemical's interests, not the public's.

One of the most egregious anti-conservation actions of this administration is the unprecedented attacks on the Antiquities Act, which has stood since President Theodore Roosevelt. The President reduced Bears Ears National Monument by 85 percent and Grand Staircase-Escalante by over 45 percent—the largest rollback of protections for our collective Federal lands in history and an unlawful Presidential action, in my view.

Each of these monuments is home to ruggedly beautiful lands that are at risk. The Bears Ears designation was the result of many years of hard work and collaboration by five Tribes who trace their ancestry to this remarkable area. Now the Department is pushing to open up the land outside their boundaries for coal and mineral mining corporations.

Last month, I led 16 Democratic Senators in a letter to Mr. Bernhardt seeking his commitment to leave existing boundaries of other national monuments intact. So far, we have received no assurance from Mr. Bernhardt that any other monuments won't meet the same fate as Bears Ears and Grand Staircase.

The pattern is clear: From the Arctic Refuge to California's Central Valley, from the Atlantic coast to Bears Ears, Mr. Bernhardt's Interior Department places profits over people.

The American public deserves an Interior Secretary they can trust to look out for their interests—protecting public land, species, the air, and the water—but Mr. Bernhardt has not demonstrated that he has the necessary independence from his former clients. He has made them very happy. He has shut out scientists, Native Americans, conservationists, and the American people. He is tangled with conflicts.

The Senate should stop the rush to confirm Deputy Secretary Bernhardt while these fundamental ethics and conflicts of interest questions are under review. If we move forward, I will vote no on this nomination.

Before I conclude, I would like to offer one final point. I made my concerns with Mr. Bernhardt clear, but if Mr. Bernhardt is confirmed, one of his most important duties will be honoring our trust responsibility to Native Americans. On this count, I hope he will do better than what the Trump Interior Department has shown us so far.

As the vice chair of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, I want to ensure that the Department respects Tribes' sovereignty and self-determination and engages in meaningful consultation with Tribes. The Trump administration's record with Tribes and Native communities is, to put it lightly, lacking. The Tribes in New Mexico do not believe they are being properly consulted as leasing pushes ahead close to Chaco Canyon.

For 3 years running, the administration has proposed budgets that would significantly cut BIA and BIE funding. Those are education budgets and budgets that help Native Americans on their reservations.

Congress has historically worked across party lines on Native issues. Congress rejected the administration's proposed cuts for fiscal years 2018 and 2019, and I fully expect it to do so again for 2020.

If confirmed, I would like to see Mr. Bernhardt follow suit and commit to do better on Tribal issues, commit to meet with Tribal leaders to understand their priorities and demonstrate in action that he respects Tribal sovereignty and that he commits the Agency to consult with Tribes whenever their interests are affected.

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

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

LIVING WILLS

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, today on the other side of this building, the CEOs of the biggest Wall Street banks face tough questions about the way their banks have scammed and broken laws and gotten away with it, as every American knows. Our Banking Committee staff analyzed the data, and it is pretty clear that these banks are breaking the laws over and over and over.

Watchdogs will take enforcement actions against a bank only to find out the same bank is breaking the rules in an entirely different way in a different part of the bank at the same time. We need to hold these banks and the corporate executives who run them accountable for their actions, which we have simply not done. Trump regulators haven't done it, and the Senate majority hasn't done it. We simply haven't done it. Hard-working Americans face real consequences when they break the law, and so should Wall Street banks.

The chair of the House Financial Services Committee, MAXINE WATERS, is doing the right thing in the House calling in these CEOs. We need to be doing the same thing in the Senate. I have called on my counterpart on the Banking Committee, Chairman CRAPO, to hold a hearing so we can question big bank executives about their lawbreaking.

There are plenty of actions the President and his administration could take on their own to punish these banks when they break the rules, but instead this administration and this majority leader do exactly the opposite. Last year, Congress passed and President Trump signed legislation rolling back laws protecting working families from Wall Street greed. The big banks, of course, ask for weaker rules. They have forgotten what happened. Well, they haven't forgotten, but they hope the public has. Certainly, the Senate Republicans have forgotten what happened 10 years ago to this country. So Congress passed and the President signed legislation rolling back laws protecting working families from Wall Street greed. As I said, the big banks wanted weaker rules and they got them, even though that puts millions of families at risk of losing their jobs and losing their homes again. President Trump said: OK, let's do what the big banks want.

We know that the White House looks like a retreat half the time for Wall Street executives, and we know the President of the United States does the bidding of Wall Street over and over.

The year before weakening these rules, Congress passed and President Trump signed a $1.5 trillion—that is 1,000 billion, $1.5 trillion—tax cut for corporations, big banks, and the richest Americans. Since the Republican tax bill passed, corporations have bought back $900 billion of their own stock.

I was in the White House one day with a group of Senators, meeting with the President of the United States, and he said that this tax bill they were about to pass—that he hoped would pass—would mean that the corporations would invest all these dollars into higher wages for workers and new factories and growing the economy. Well, what happened with a lot of this money was they used this money for stock buybacks.

Of the eight companies with the most stock buybacks—with billion dollars of stock buybacks—half of them were Wall Street banks. We know Wall Street can never get enough—never enough power, never enough money. They always want more. One bank lobbyist said: We don't want a seat at the table; we want the whole table.

And this Congress and this President think that is just fine.

The tax giveaways, letting banks haggle over their stress test results, and taking away customers' rights to have their day in court when the banks scam them, apparently, just wasn't enough for Wall Street. Two days ago, the Fed announced that they are going to roll back more rules on foreign megabanks. These are not just U.S. banks with U.S. employees. These are foreign megabanks. We are talking about banks that have broken U.S. law over and over and over. I am not going to document all of those. But there are many, many cases of these foreign megabanks breaking U.S. law—banks like Santander, which illegally repossess servicemen's cars. So when men and women are overseas protecting our country, Santander, a Spanish-owned bank doing business in the United States, actually repossessed these servicemembers' cars.

Deutsche Bank has laundered money. We know Deutsche Bank is about the only big bank in the world that will finance the President because he has a history and a habit of cheating banks and not paying back loans. So because of the relationship that Deutsche Bank and President Trump have, Deutsche Bank is doing just fine. We also know that Deutsche Bank laundered money, breaking U.S. law. Not even counting the President's insidious activities with them, Deutsche Bank broke U.S. law by laundering money. But do you know what? The Fed gives them rollback rules because we don't want to be too tough on the foreign megabanks.

Last year, when the President signed his big bank bill, I warned that it would mean looser rules on those big, foreign banks. They all said: No, that is not going to happen. Federal Reserve Chairman J. Powell himself said it wouldn't happen; they are not going to weaken the rules on the foreign banks. Well, either they were naive at the time—I think J. Powell is an honest man. I guess I didn't know he was this naive. But he and others would say: They are not going to weaken foreign bank rules.

Well, now they have.

When the Fed made the announcement of its plan to go easy on foreign banks, they said—I am not kidding; this is a quote: ''This proposal should look familiar because it shares the same basic framework as the domestic proposal.'' It is as if that is a good thing, as if they are bragging that we are treating the foreign banks the same way as domestic banks, but these foreign banks happen to break the law over and over—Deutsche Bank, Santander, and other banks.

That is not even the only good news for megabanks this week. We got word that the Fed and President Trump's appointees are going to let the biggest Wall Street banks off the hook on another rule, but one that requires something called living wills. Now, living wills doesn't sound like much. It doesn't mean much to Members of this Senate and to the general public, unless they are in the Banking Committee and they spend a lot of time on this.

Living wills are blueprints from banks that are supposed to prove they will not wreck the economy and cost taxpayers billions of dollars if they go bankrupt. Now, pretty much the way it works is like this. The Federal Reserve goes to these banks and they require these banks to show what would happen if there were a significant downturn in the economy like there was a decade-plus ago.

When the economy went south in 2007, 2008, and 2009, for these banks—because they weren't strong enough, because they hadn't had these stress tests, and because they hadn't gone through these rules because it wasn't Federal law at the time—it wasn't clear that these banks would be able to withstand that kind of plummeting of the economy when demand shrinks and all the things that happen in a recession. They weren't. So that is why government bailed them out. That is why the lobbyists lined up in Leader MCCONNELL's office—then, I guess, it was Leader Fritz's office or Leader Lott's office—and got so much of what they wanted from Senate Republicans in those days.

The whole point of these living wills is that banks can show, through a series of complicated tests, that even if the economy goes bad, these banks aren't going to tank, these banks aren't going to go out of business, and these banks aren't going to need a Federal bailout. That is the whole purpose—a big part of the purpose—of Dodd-Frank, the Wall Street reform bill.

Again, these living wills are blueprints from banks that would prove they will not wreck the economy and cost taxpayers billions if they go bankrupt. Under the bill that passed a decade ago to fix this, they had to go through a stress test every year. Well, this bill the President signed said that, well, they will not have to go through it quite every year. The debate was—I said I didn't think we should do it. My Republican colleagues said: Well, it will probably be every other year. Maybe that is not so bad.

I said: Well, probably it is. It ought to be every year.

Now the Federal Reserve has said it is just going to be once for every Presidential 4-year term—once every 4 years. Nobody saw that coming. I guess the banks saw it coming because the banks had a lot of influence with them.

So the Wall Street reform law required them to file these plans every year, and now they require them only every 4 years. It is said that if those plans didn't look credible and if the banks failed their stress tests—in other words, they weren't strong enough to withstand a recession—then, the Federal Reserve and others would have the power to go in and make these problem banks simpler and smaller. In other words, if the banks couldn't withstand a bad economy and if these banks were too fragile and caused too much damage to the economy if they didn't pass the stress tests, these banks, then, could be broken up into smaller units, making them stronger. But now financial watchdogs only have to check into those plans just once a Presidential term, every 4 years. A lot can change and a lot can go wrong in 4 years. Just ask any family or anyone how their income or rent or savings change. They may not be the same month-to-month let alone every 4 years.

The people in this town, especially Republicans on the Senate Banking Committee, have this collective amnesia. They may have forgotten what the financial crisis and the housing crisis meant. The families who lost their homes, lost their jobs, lost their retirement savings and their college funds haven't forgotten. They haven't recovered from the financial crisis. They haven't recovered from decades of bad trade policy and bad tax policy that make it harder and harder for their work to pay off.

I don't think Members of this body—there is a wonderful quote from President Lincoln when he said to his staff: I need to go out and get my public opinion back. I need to go out and listen to what people are saying and look at how they are living and talk about their lives.

It is not something people around here do much of, especially when it is people who might be vulnerable to losing their homes.

I live in Cleveland, OH, Connie and I. We live in ZIP Code 44105. There were more foreclosures in my ZIP Code than in any ZIP Code in the United States of America. You can still see the urban blight and the residue in what is left—the remains of those foreclosures.

Think about what it means to a family personally. The first thing they have to do is get rid of their pet. Their pet costs too much money, no matter how close their son or daughter or they themselves may be to their dog or cat.

Then they have to make all kinds of decisions: We are going to have to

move. We are going to have to go to a new school district—all the kinds of heartache when your life has been turned upside down because you are foreclosed on.

I am not an alarmist or predicting anything in the next few months, but if we keep going down this path, weakening Federal banking law, doing the bidding of Wall Street, if the lobbyists continue to go in and out of the office of Senator MCCONNELL, the Republican leader's office, and the bank lobbyists who go in and out of there and get their way—if that happens and continues to happen, who knows what will happen again in the next 2, 3, 5, 10 years.

The more we roll back these rules on Wall Street, the more we give breaks to foreign megabanks, the greedier the big banks get, the more risk they take on, and the higher the chance that one of their big risks doesn't pay off.

Mr. President, you know who is paying the price when Wall Street bets don't pay off. It is you, it is the workers, families, and taxpayers. It is your money, the American people's money they are gambling with. So instead of making it easier for Wall Street to make big bets and break the law without reaping consequences, why don't we make it easier for families to afford healthcare? Why don't we make it easier for working parents to afford childcare? Why don't we make it easier for workers to save for retirement? Why don't we make it easier for students to pay for college? Why don't we honor the dignity of work and make sure hard work pays off for everyone, whether you swipe a badge or punch a clock or work for tips or work for a salary or whether you are taking care of children or an aging parent? Why don't we make it easier for them with a tax code and trade policy that works? Instead, all our efforts and all of the administration's efforts—as I said, the White House looks like a retreat for Wall Street executives. So much of their efforts are to make it easier for corporations and to make it easier for the big banks.

It is time we listened a little more to the Americans we serve, a little less to the biggest Wall Street banks that have gotten enough handouts already.

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. LEE. 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. LEE. Mr. President, we have no further debate on the nominee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Morales nomination?

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas and nays have been ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber wishing to vote or to change their vote?

The result was announced—yeas 56, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 75 Ex.]

YEAS—56

Alexander	Gardner	Paul
Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hawley	Roberts
Boozman	Hoeven	Romney
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Burr	Inhofe	Rubio
Capito	Isakson	Sasse
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Collins	Jones	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kaine	Shelby
Cotton	Kennedy	Sinema
Cramer	Lankford	Sullivan
Crapo	Lee	Thune
Cruz	Manchin	Tillis
Daines	McConnell	Toomey
Enzi	McSally	Wicker
Ernst	Moran	Young
Fischer	Murkowski	

NAYS—41

Baldwin	Hassan	Sanders
Bennet	Heinrich	Schatz
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schumer
Brown	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Smith
Cardin	Leahy	Stabenow
Carper	Markey	Tester
Casey	Menendez	Udall
Coons	Merkley	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warner
Duckworth	Murray	Warren
Durbin	Peters	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Reed	Wyden
Gillibrand	Rosen	

NOT VOTING—3

Booker	Harris	Perdue

The nomination was confirmed.

The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that with respect to the Morales nomination, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of David Bernhardt, of Virginia, to be Secretary of the Interior.

Mitch McConnell, Mike Crapo, John Thune, John Barrasso, Johnny Isakson, Pat Roberts, John Cornyn, Lindsey Graham, Thom Tillis, Roy Blunt, John Boozman, James E. Risch, Roger F. Wicker, John Hoeven, Mike Rounds, Steve Daines, Shelley Moore Capito.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of David Bernhardt, of Virginia, to be Secretary of the Interior, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 56, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 76 Ex.]

YEAS—56

Alexander	Gardner	Paul
Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hawley	Roberts
Boozman	Heinrich	Romney
Braun	Hoeven	Rounds
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Capito	Inhofe	Sasse
Cassidy	Isakson	Scott (FL)
Collins	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Shelby
Cotton	King	Sinema
Cramer	Lankford	Sullivan
Crapo	Lee	Thune
Cruz	Manchin	Tillis
Daines	McConnell	Toomey
Enzi	McSally	Wicker
Ernst	Moran	Young
Fischer	Murkowski	

NAYS—41

Baldwin	Hassan	Sanders
Bennet	Hirono	Schatz
Blumenthal	Jones	Schumer
Brown	Kaine	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Smith
Cardin	Leahy	Stabenow
Carper	Markey	Tester
Casey	Menendez	Udall
Coons	Merkley	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warner
Duckworth	Murray	Warren
Durbin	Peters	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Reed	Wyden
Gillibrand	Rosen	

NOT VOTING—3

Booker	Harris	Perdue

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 56, the nays are 41.

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of David Bernhardt, of Virginia, to be Secretary of the Interior.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

BUDGET SCOREKEEPING REPORT

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I rise to submit to the Senate the budget scorekeeping report for April 2019. The report compares current-law levels of spending and revenues with the amounts the Senate agreed to in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, BBA18. This information is necessary for the Senate Budget Committee to determine whether budgetary points of order lie against pending legislation. The Republican staff of the Budget Committee and the Congressional Budget Office, CBO, prepared this report pursuant to section 308(b) of the Congressional Budget Act, CBA.

This is my third scorekeeping report this year. My last filing can be found in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for February 27, 2019. The information included in this report is current through April 8, 2019.

Since my last filing, three bills with significant budgetary effects cleared Congress, the Pesticide Registration Improvement Extension Act of 2018, P.L. 116–8; the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act, P.L. 116–9; and the Medicaid Services Investment and Accountability Act of 2019, H.R. 1839.

Budget Committee Republican staff prepared Tables 1–3.

Table 1 gives the amount by which each Senate authorizing committee exceeds or is below its allocation for budget authority and outlays under the fiscal year 2019 enforceable levels filing required by BBA18. This information is used for enforcing committee allocations pursuant to section 302 of the CBA. Over the current 10-year enforceable window, authorizing committees have increased outlays by a combined $3.4 billion. For this reporting period, as in my last report, 8 of the 16 authorizing committees are not in compliance with their allocations. One of these committees, Finance, further exacerbated its violations this work period with the passage of the Medicaid Services Investment and Accountability Act. CBO estimates that this measure will increase mandatory spending for all enforceable periods, including an increase in outlays of $27 million over the Fiscal Year 2019–2028 period. The Agriculture Committee reduced the size of its violations with the passage of the Pesticide Registration Improvement Extension Act, which CBO scores as reducing outlays by $5 million in Fiscal Year 2019 and by $23 million over the Fiscal Year 2019–2023 period. The Energy and Natural Resources Committee, which was not in breach of its allocation for the last reporting cycle, continued to reduce spending with the passage of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act. CBO estimates that this measure will reduce spending by $10 million over both the 5- and 10-year enforceable windows. This savings is credited to its allocation, as shown in the table.

Tables 2 provides the amount by which the Senate Committee on Appropriations is below or exceeds the statutory spending limits. This information is used to determine points of order related to the spending caps found in sections 312 and 314 of the CBA. Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2019, displayed in this table, show that the Appropriations Committee is compliant with spending limits for Fiscal Year 2019. Those limits for regular discretionary spending are $647 billion for accounts in the defense category and $597 billion for accounts in the nondefense category of spending.

The Fiscal Year 2018 budget resolution contained points of order limiting the use of changes in mandatory programs in appropriations bills, CHIMPs. Table 3, which tracks the CHIMP limit of $15 billion for Fiscal Year 2019, shows the Appropriations Committee has enacted $15 billion worth of full-year CHIMPs for Fiscal Year 2019.

In addition to the tables provided by Budget Committee Republican staff, I am submitting CBO tables, which I will use to enforce budget totals approved by Congress.

For Fiscal Year 2019, CBO estimates that current-law levels are $2.9 billion above and $3.3 billion below enforceable levels for budget authority and outlays, respectively. Revenues are $426 million below the level assumed in the budget resolution. Further, Social Security revenues are at the levels assumed for Fiscal Year 2019, while Social Security outlays are $4 million above assumed levels for the budget year.

CBO's report also provides information needed to enforce the Senate pay-as-you-go, PAYGO, rule. The PAYGO scorecard shows deficit increases in Fiscal Year 2019 of $1,957 million—$427 million revenue loss, $1,530 million outlay increase; over the Fiscal Year 2018–2023 period of $3,373 million—$894 million revenue loss, $2,479 million outlay increase; and over the Fiscal Year 2018–2028 period of $442 million, $634 million revenue loss, $192 million outlay decrease.

This submission also includes a table tracking the Senate's budget enforcement activity on the floor since the enforcement filing on May 7, 2018. Since my last report, no new budgetary points of order were raised.

All years in the accompanying tables are fiscal years.

I ask unanimous consent that the accompanying tables be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

TABLE 1.—SENATE AUTHORIZING COMMITTEES—ENACTED DIRECT SPENDING ABOVE (+) OR BELOW (−) BUDGET RESOLUTIONS

[In millions of dollars]

	2019	2019–2023	2019–2028
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry			
Budget Authority	2 414	4,249	3,123
Outlays	1,401	1,797	70
Armed Services			
Budget Authority	0	0	0
Outlays	0	0	0
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs			
Budget Authority	21	285	382
Outlays	20	285	382
Commerce, Science, and Transportation			
Budget Authority	41	77	91
Outlays	11	74	90
Energy and Natural Resources			
Budget Authority	0	−10	−24
Outlays	0	−10	−24
Environment and Public Works			
Budget Authority	2	4	−333
Outlays	2	4	−333
Finance			
Budget Authority	378	1,128	−889
Outlays	159	1,120	−892
Foreign Relations			
Budget Authority	0	−5	−20
Outlays	0	−5	−20
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs			
Budget Authority	0	2	4
Outlays	43	48	49
Judiciary			
Budget Authority	13	209	497
Outlays	13	205	492
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions			
Budget Authority	0	−36	−84
Outlays	0	−36	−84
Rules and Administration			
Budget Authority	0	0	0
Outlays	0	0	0
Intelligence			
Budget Authority	0	0	0
Outlays	0	0	0
Veterans' Affairs			
Budget Authority	4	3	−729
Outlays	4,402	4,400	3,668
Indian Affairs			
Budget Authority	0	0	0
Outlays	0	0	0
Small Business			
Budget Authority	0	0	0
Outlays	0	0	0
Total			
Budget Authority	2,873	5,906	2,018
Outlays	6,051	7,882	3,398

TABLE 2.—SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE—ENACTED REGULAR DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS [1]

[Budget authority, in millions of dollars]

	2019	
	Security [2]	Nonsecurity [2]
Statutory Discretionary Limits	647,000	597,000
Amount Provided by Senate Appropriations Subcommittee		
Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies	0	23,042
Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies	5,499	58,619
Defense	606,340	129
Energy and Water Development	22,440	22,200
Financial Services and General Government	31	23,392
Homeland Security	2,058	47,353
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies	0	35,552
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies	0	178,076
Legislative Branch	0	4,836
Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies	10,332	86,804
State Foreign Operations, and Related Programs	0	46,218
Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies	300	70,779
Current Level Total	647,000	597,000
Total Enacted Above (+) or Below (−) Statutory Limits	0	0

[1] This table excludes spending pursuant to adjustments to the discretionary spending limits. These adjustments are allowed for certain purposes in section 251(b)(2) of BBEDCA.

[2] Security spending is defined as spending in the National Defense budget function (050) and nonsecurity spending is defined as all other spending.

TABLE 3.—SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE—ENACTED CHANGES IN MANDATORY SPENDING PROGRAMS (CHIMPS)

[Budget authority, millions of dollars]

	2019
CHIMPS Limit for Fiscal Year 2019	15,000
Senate Appropriations Subcommittees	
Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies	0
Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies	7,285
Defense	0
Energy and Water Development	0
Financial Services and General Government	0
Homeland Security	0
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies	0
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies	7,715
Legislative Branch	0
Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies	0
State Foreign Operations, and Related Programs	0
Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies	0
Current Level Total	15,000
Total CHIMPS Above (+) or Below (−) Budget Resolution	0

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, April 10, 2019.

Hon. MIKE ENZI,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The enclosed report shows the effects of Congressional action on the fiscal year 2019 budget and is current through April 8, 2019. This report is submitted under section 308(b) and in aid of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended.

The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the allocations, aggregates, and other budgetary levels printed in the Congressional Record on May 7, 2018, pursuant to section 30103 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–123).

Since our last letter dated February 27, 2019, the Congress has cleared and the President has signed the Pesticide Registration Improvement Extension Act of 2018 (Public Law 116–8). The Congress has also cleared the Medicaid Services Investment and Accountability Act of 2019 (H.R. 1839) for the President's signature. Those acts would have significant effects on outlays in fiscal year 2019.

Sincerely,

KEITH HALL,
Director.

Enclosure.

TABLE 1.—SENATE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT FOR SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019, AS OF APRIL 8, 2019

[In billions of dollars]

	Budget Resolution	Current Level	Current Level Over/Under (−) Resolution
On-Budget			
Budget Authority	3,639.3	3,642.2	2.9
Outlays	3,550.0	3,546.7	−3.3
Revenues	2,590.5	2,590.1	−0.4
Off-Budget			
Social Security Outlays [a]	908.8	908.8	0.0
Social Security Revenues	899.2	899.2	0.0

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

[a] Excludes administrative expenses paid from the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund of the Social Security Administration, which are off-budget, but are appropriated annually.

TABLE 2.—SUPPORTING DETAIL FOR THE SENATE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT FOR ON-BUDGET SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019, AS OF APRIL 8, 2019

[In millions of dollars]

	Budget Authority	Outlays	Revenues
Previously Enacted: [a,b,c]			
Revenues	n.a.	n.a.	2,590,496
Permanents and other spending legislation	2,271,360	2,169,258	n.a.
Authorizing and Appropriation legislation	1,886,507	1,949,120	−302
Offsetting receipts	−890,012	−890,015	n.a.
Total, Previously Enacted	3,267,855	3,228,363	2,590,194
Enacted Legislation:			
Authorizing Legislation:			
Medicaid Extenders Act of 2019 (P.L. 116–3)	120	8	0
Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019 (P.L. 116–6, Division H) [d]	2	2	1
Pesticide Registration Improvement Extension Act of 2018 (P.L. 116–8)	0	−5	0
Subtotal, Authorizing Legislation	122	5	1
Appropriation Legislation: [b]			
Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019 (Divisions A–G, P.L. 116–6) [b,c]	480,297	311,586	−125
Passed, Pending Signature:			
Medicaid Services Investment and Accountability Act of 2019 (H.R. 1839)	52	32	0
Total, Enacted Legislation	480,471	311,623	−124
Entitlements and Mandatories	−106,128	6,756	0
Total Current Level [c]	3,642,198	3,546,742	2,590,070
Total Senate Resolution [e]	3,639,324	3,550,009	2,590,496
Current Level Over Senate Resolution	2,874	n.a.	n.a.
Current Level Under Senate Resolution	n.a.	3,267	426
Memorandum:			
Revenues, 2019–2028:			
Senate Current Level	n.a.	n.a.	33,272,518
Senate Resolution [e]	n.a.	n.a.	33,273,213
Current Level Over Senate Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Current Level Under Senate Resolution	n.a.	n a.	695

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = Public Law.

[a] Includes the budgetary effects of legislation enacted by Congress during the 115th Congress.

[b] Sections 1001–1004 of the 21st Century Cures Act (P.L. 114–255) require that certain funding provided for 2017 through 2026 to the Department of Health and Human Services—in particular the Food and Drug Administration and the National Institutes of Health—be excluded from estimates for the purposes of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (Deficit Control Act) or the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (Congressional Budget Act). Therefore, the amounts shown in this report do not include $771 million in budget authority, and $767 million in estimated outlays

[c] For purposes of enforcing section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act in the Senate, the resolution, as approved by the Senate, does not include budget authority, outlays, or revenues for off-budget amounts. As a result, current level does not include those items.

[d] The Continuing Appropriations Act, 2019 (P.L. 116–5), as amended, extended several immigration programs through February 15, 2019, that would otherwise have expired at the end of fiscal year 2018. The estimated budgetary effects of those previously enacted extensions are charged to the Committee on Appropriations, and are included in the budgetary effects of P.L. 116–6 shown in the "Appropriation Legislation" portion of this report. In addition, division H of P.L. 116–6 further extended those same programs through the end of fiscal year 2019. Consistent with the language in title III of division H of P.L. 116–6, and at the direction of the Senate Committee on the Budget, the budgetary effects of extending those immigration programs for the remainder of the fiscal year are charged to the relevant authorizing committees, and are shown in the "Authorizing Legislation" portion of this report.

[e] Section 30103 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 requires the Chair of the Senate Committee on the Budget publish the aggregate spending and revenue levels for fiscal year 2019; those aggregate levels were first published in the Congressional Record on May 7, 2018. The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 also allows the Chair of the Senate Committee on the Budget to revise the budgetary aggregates:

	Budget Authority	Outlays	Revenues
Original Aggregates Printed on May 7, 2018:	3,547,094	3,508,052	2,590,496
Revisions:			
Pursuant to sections 311 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974	921	0	0
Pursuant to sections 311 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974	69,464	38,556	0
Pursuant to sections 311 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974	0	−214	0
Pursuant to sections 311 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974	1,680	25	0
Pursuant to sections 311 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974	20,165	3,590	0
Revised Senate Resolution	3,639,324	3,550,009	2,590,496

TABLE 3.—SUMMARY OF THE SENATE PAY-AS-YOU-GO SCORECARD AS OF APRIL 8, 2019

[In millions of dollars]

	2018	2019	2018–2023	2018–2028
Beginning Balance [a]	0	0	0	0
Enacted Legislation: [b,c]				
A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to "Incident Auto Lending and Compliance with the Equal Credit Opportunity Act" (S.J. Res. 57, P.L. 115–172)	*	*	*	*
Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer Protections Act (S. 2155, P.L. I15–174) [d]	*	22	329	490
Trickett Wendler, Frank Mongiello, Jordan McLinn, and Matthew Bellina Right to Try Act of 2017 (S. 204, P.L. 115–176)	*	*	*	*
An Act to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish assistance for adaptations of residences of veterans in rehabilitation programs under chapter 31 of such title, and for other purposes (H.R. 3562, P.L. 115–177)	*	*	*	*
VA MISSION Act of 2018 (S. 2372, P.L. 115–182) [e]	*	*	*	*
Whistleblower Protection Coordination Act (S. 1869, P.L. 115–192)	*	*	*	*
All Circuit Review Act (H.R. 2229, P.L. 115–195)	*	*	*	*
American Innovation $1 Coin Act (H.R. 770, P.L. 115–197)	0	3	3	0
Small Business 7(a) Lending Oversight Reform Act of 2018 (H.R 4743, P.L. 115–189)	*	*	*	*
Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act of 2018 (H.R. 5956, P.L. 115–218)	0	0	0	−3
KIWI Act (S. 2245, P.L. 115–226)	*	*	*	*
To make technical amendments to certain marine fish conservation statutes, and for other purposes (H.R. 4528, P.L. 115–228)	*	*	*	*
John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (H.R. 5515, P.L. 115–232)	*	*	*	*
Miscellaneous Tariff Bill Act of 2018 (H.R. 4318, P.L. 115–239)	0	304	690	−118
Tribal Social Security Fairness Act of 2018 (H R. 6124, P.L. 115–243)	0	*	−1	−3
Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2019 (H.R. 6157, Division B, P.L. 115–245, Division B)	0	0	18	18
Nuclear Energy Innovation Capabilities Act of 2017 (S. 97, P.L. 115–248)	*	*	*	*
Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2018 (S. 3479, P.L. 115–251)	*	2	*	−3
Elkhom Ranch and White River National Forest Conveyance Act of 2017 (H.R. 698, P.L. 115–252)	*	*	*	*
FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (H.R. 302, P.L. 115–54) [f]	*	44	42	26

TABLE 3.—SUMMARY OF THE SENATE PAY-AS-YOU-GO SCORECARD AS OF APRIL 8, 2019—Continued

[In millions of dollars]

	2018	2019	2018–2023	2018–2028
Patient Right To Know Drug Act of 2018 (S. 2554, P.L. 115–263)	*	*	−11	−52
Orrin G. Hatch-Bob Goodlatte Music Modernization Act (H.R. 1551, P.L. 115–264)	0	0	13	−24
Congressional Award Program Reauthorization Act of 2018 (S. 3509, P.L. 115–268)	0	*	2	4
America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 (S. 3021, P.L. 115–270)	0	2	16	−230
SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act (H.R. 6, P.L. 115–271) [g]	0	*	*	*
Hizballah International Financing Prevention Amendments Act of 2017 (S. 1595, P.L. 115–272)	0	*	*	*
To authorize the National Emergency Medical Services Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes (H.R. 1037, P.L. 115–275)	0	*	*	*
Gulf Islands National Seashore Land Exchange Act (H.R. 2615, P.L. 115–279)	0	*	*	*
Frank LoBiondo Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2018 (S. 140, P.L. 115–282)	0	10	34	0
Making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2019, and for other purposes (H.J. Res. 143, P.L. 115–298)	0	*	*	*
Amy, Vicky, and Andy Child Pornography Victim Assistance Act of 2018 (S. 2152, P.L. 115–299)	0	*	*	*
A bill to establish a procedure for the conveyance of certain Federal property around the Dickinson Reservoir in the State of North Dakota (S. 440, P.L. 115–306)	0	0	0	−4
A bill to establish a procedure for the conveyance of certain Federal property around the Jamestown Reservoir in the State of North Dakota, and for other purposes (S. 2074, P.L. 115–308)	0	0	0	−7
Anwar Sadat Centennial Celebration Act (H.R. 754, P.L. 115–310)	0	*	*	*
Larry Doby Congressional Gold Medal Act (H.R. 1861, P.L. 115–322)	0	*	*	*
Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act of 2018 (H.R. 1872, P.L. 115–330)	0	*	*	*
Protecting Access to the Courts for Taxpayers Act (H.R. 3996, P.L. 115–332)	0	*	*	*
Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (H.R. 2, P.L. 115–334)	0	1,399	1,785	0
Nicaragua Human Rights and Anticorruption Act of 2018 (H.R. 1918, P.L. 115–335)	0	*	*	*
21st Century Integrated Digital Experience Act (H.R. 5759, P.L. 115–336)	0	*	*	*
Chinese-American World War II Veteran Congressional Gold Medal Act (S. 1050, P.L. 115–337)	0	*	*	*
USS Indianapolis Congressional Gold Medal Act (S. 2101, P.L. 115–338)	0	*	*	*

TABLE 3.—SUMMARY OF THE SENATE PAY-AS-YOU-GO SCORECARD AS OF APRIL 8, 2019—Continued

[In millions of dollars]

	2018	2019	2018–2023	2018–2028
Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame Commemorative Coin Act (H. R. 1235, P.L. 115–343)	0	0	0	0
Sanctioning the Use of Civilians as Defenseless Shields Act (H.R. 3342, P.L. 115–348)	0	*	*	*
Correcting Miscalculations in Veterans' Pensions Act (H.R. 4431, P.L. 115–352)	0	*	*	*
Strengthening Coastal Communities Act of 2018 (H.R. 5787, P.L. 115–358)	0	*	*	*
Walnut Grove Land Exchange Act (H.R. 5923, P.L. 115–361)	0	*	*	*
To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to extend through 2023 the authority of the Federal Election Commission to impose civil money penalties on the basis of a schedule of penalties established and published by the Commission (H.R. 7120, P.L. 115–386)	0	*	*	*
First Step Act of 2018 (S. 756, P.L. 115–391)	0	11	120	317
Abolish Human Trafficking Act of 2017 (S. 1311, P.L. 115–392)	0	*	*	*
CENOTE Act of 2018 (S. 2511, P.L. 115–394)	0	*	*	*
NASA Enhanced Use Leasing Extension Act of 2018 (S. 7, P.L. 115–403)	0	0	5	5
Veterans Benefits and Transition Act of 2018 (S. 2248, P.L. 115–407)	0	*	*	*
Stephen Michael Gleason Congressional Gold Medal Act (S. 2652, P.L. 115–415)	0	*	*	*
Veterans Small Business Enhancement Act of 2018 (S. 2679, P.L. 115–416)	0	*	*	*
Forever GI Bill Housing Payment Fulfillment Act of 2018 (S. 3777, P.L. 115–422)	0	*	*	*
National Integrated Drought Information System Reauthorization Act of 2018 (S. 2200, P.L. 115–423)	0	*	*	*
To authorize early repayment of obligations to the Bureau of Reclamation within the Northport Irrigation District in the State of Nebraska (H.R. 4689, P.L. 115–429)	0	*	*	*
75th Anniversary of World War II Commemoration Act (S. 3661, P.L. 115–433)	0	*	*	*
Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program Extension Act (H.R. 251, P.L. 116–2)	0	*	*	*
Medicaid Extenders Act of 2019 (H.R. 259, P.L. 116–3)	0	8	63	*
Further Additional Continuing Appropriations Act, 2019 (H.J. Res. 28, P.L. 116–5)	0	*	*	*
Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019 (H.J. Res. 31, P.L. 116–6) [h]	0	125	229	9
Pesticide Registration Improvement Extension Act of 2018 (S. 483, P.L. 116–8)	0	−5	−23	0
John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act (S. 47, P.L. 116–9)	0	0	−10	−10
Medicaid Services Investment and Accountability Act of 2019 (H.R. 1839)	0	32	69	27

TABLE 3.—SUMMARY OF THE SENATE PAY-AS-YOU-GO SCORECARD AS OF APRIL 8, 2019—Continued

[In millions of dollars]

	2018	2019	2018–2023	2018–2028
Impact on Deficit	*	1,957	3,373	442
Total Change in Outlays	*	1,530	2,479	−192
Total Change in Revenues	*	−427	−894	−634

Source. Congressional Budget Office

Notes: P.L. = Public Law, * = between −$500,000 and $500,000.

[a] On May 7, 2018, the Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget reset the Senate's Pay-As-You-Go Scorecard to zero for all fiscal years.

[b] The amounts shown represent the estimated effect of the public laws on the deficit.

[c] Excludes off-budget amounts.

[d] Pursuant to section 232(b) of H.C. Res. 290 (106th Congress), the Concurrent Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2001, the budgetary effects related to the Federal Reserve's surplus funds are excluded. As a result, the amounts shown do not include estimated increases in revenues of $655 million in fiscal year 2019, $570 million over the 2019–2023 period, and $454 million over the 2019–2028 period.

[e] The budgetary effects of this Act are excluded from the Senate's PAYGO scorecard, pursuant to section 512 of the Act.

[f] Division I of P.L. 115–254 contains the Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2018, which provided $1,680 million in supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2019, and designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251 of the Deficit Control Act. At the direction of the Committees on the Budget, and consistent with the language in section 1701, those amounts are shown as discretionary spending.

[g] The budgetary effects of this Act are excluded from the Senate's PAYGO scorecard, pursuant to section 8231 of the Act.

[h] The budgetary effects of title I of division H are excluded from the Senate's PAYGO scorecard, pursuant to title III of division H of the Act.

ENFORCEMENT REPORT OF POINTS OF ORDER RAISED SINCE THE FY 2019 ENFORCEMENT FILING

Vote	Date	Measure	Violation	Motion to Waive	Result
127	June 18, 2018	H.R. 5515—John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019.	4106(a)-Senate-Pay-As-You-Go Violation [1]	Sen. McConnell (R–KY) [2]	81–14, waived
192	August 23, 2018	S. Amdt. #3695 to H.R. 6157, the Defense, Labor, HHS, and Education Appropriations Act [3].	314(a) CHIMP with Net-Costs	Sen. Leahy (D–VT)	68–24, waived

[1] Senator Sanders raised a section 4106(a) of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress) point of order against the bill because the bill would increase the on-budget deficit.

[2] By unanimous consent the Senate proceeded to a roll call vote to waive the point of order.

[3] This surgical point of order would have struck lines 7–8 of page 270 in Division B (Title III) of the substitute amendment, which was related to the Pell Grant program. This provision was a Change in Mandatory Program (CHIMP) estimated to increase spending by $390 million over 10 years.

NOMINATION OF DAVID BERNHARDT

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, President Trump has nominated David Bernhardt to be Secretary of the Interior.

The Department of the Interior has broad management responsibilities over our public lands and waters, wildlife, and is also responsible for maintaining the trust responsibilities on behalf of the United States with Indian Country. They also have over 70,000 Federal employees.

There have been significant questions raised about Mr. Bernhardt's decisions and priorities in his position as Deputy Secretary and Acting Secretary that have directly benefitted his former clients, while harming our public lands and wildlife.

There are a number of troubling issues with Mr. Bernhardt's record on the critical issues before the Department of the Interior, but there are two that are of particular concern to me.

First, I am particularly concerned about Mr. Bernhardt's role in the Solicitor's Opinion, M–37050, on the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, MBTA. The Solicitor's Opinion, or M-Opinion, on the MBTA was released on December 22, 2017, without any public or scientific input or environmental analysis, abruptly removing longstanding protections for migratory birds. These protections have been implemented in a bipartisan manner from every administration since the early 1970s. It is likely that millions of birds have been saved thanks to this law and the leadership of the Department. The MBTA has significantly reduced the number of birds killed from oil waste pits and other threats, and it has provided accountability and recovery funds after oil spills such as Deepwater Horizon. This change has been opposed by 17 former Interior officials from every Republican and Democratic administration since the early 1970s, as well as Flyway Councils representing nearly every State wildlife agency in the country.

In letters exchanged between me and the Department of the Interior, they have admitted that due to the M-Opinion on the MBTA, they will no longer be able to secure fines or penalties for violations of the MBTA from companies responsible for an oil spill that non-intentionally kills migratory birds similar to the British Petroleum (BP) Deepwater Horizon disaster of 2010, which killed an estimated 1,000,000 migratory birds.

Furthermore, despite the MBTA's strong record in saving birds through reasonable enforcement, one of Mr. Bernhardt's former clients, the Independent Petroleum Association of America, IPAA, urged the Department of the Interior to gut the MBTA and remove protections for birds and any requirements to take actions to minimize impacts to birds from their activities.

Just this week, we learned that there have been at least three oil spills recently that appear to have killed migratory birds, in which the Department of the Interior admitted in internal emails they can't respond to due to the MBTA M-Opinion.

So in the case of the MBTA, we see a dramatic change in the Department of the Interior's legal interpretation of a key wildlife law that appears to have benefited a former client of Mr. Bernhardt.

The second issue of critical concern to me is offshore drilling. I hail from a coastal State and a State that is firmly opposed to any oil and gas drilling off of our coastline. Mr. Bernhardt has overseen the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's, BOEM, development of an oil and gas leasing plan that dramatically expands risky offshore drilling and that has prompted bipartisan criticism at all levels of government. The Department of the Interior, under Mr. Bernhardt's leadership, has simultaneously been working to weaken offshore drilling safety standards put in place in response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and at the recommendation of a bipartisan commission that investigated the disaster.

I have serious questions about whether Mr. Bernhardt can do his job without confronting conflicts of interest at every turn, and I fear that he will put powerful special interests before the public interest.

For these reasons, I opposed David Bernhardt's nomination as Secretary of the Interior.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. President, I was absent for vote No. 76 the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 200, the nomination of David Bernhardt to be Secretary of the Interior. Had I been present, I would have voted no on the motion to invoke cloture.

COLORADO RIVER DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN AUTHORIZATION ACT

Ms. McSALLY. Mr. President, on Monday, the Senate passed my bill, and yesterday, we passed identical House legislation to ensure this went to the President as quickly as possible. I would like to take a few minutes to thank those involved with these agreements and again highlight the importance of this historic achievement.

The Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan, also known as the DCP, was negotiated between the seven Colorado River Basin States to respond to this prolonged drought. It is designed to protect Lakes Mead and Powell from reaching certain critical water elevations that would trigger severe water supply and hydropower impacts, including the risk of reaching crisis levels where operational control of the Colorado River System is lost.

The set of five agreements that makes up the DCP builds off of the tools and water saving commitments made by the basin States in the 2007 Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and Coordinated Operations for Lakes Powell and Mead to further address water security and respond to actual water conditions as demanded by responsible water resource management. These added savings bring the risk of the Mead hitting 1,000 feet over the next 7 years to near zero.

I am especially proud of the work done on these agreements in Arizona, which takes the biggest and most immediate reduction in water supply under the DCP. Through inclusive,

good-faith negotiations, cities, farmers, tribes, and conservations groups came together to make the tough decisions required to improve long-term water security and avert the looming water supply crisis.

I would like to thank and congratulate Governor Doug Ducey and his staff, the Arizona State legislature, Tom Buschatzke and his team at the Department of Water Resources, the CAWCD board, Ted Cooke and the CAP staff, Gila River Indian Community Governor Stephen Lewis and the Gila River Indian Community Tribal Council, Colorado River Indian Tribes Chairman Dennis Patch and the CRIT Tribal Council, and the dozens and dozens of ag, water, municipal, NGO, and other stakeholders, including the entire Arizona DCP Steering Committee, involved on this outstanding achievement that will improve Arizona's water security for years to come.

Work on the DCP has been underway for nearly 6 years. It has spanned the terms of two Presidents, three Interior Secretaries, and 13 Governors. The effort has seamlessly transitioned between Republican and Democrat administrations, both here in DC and out in the States, and I am proud of the swift action taken by Congress to authorize this agreement.

The Colorado River DCP Authorization Act was developed in a bipartisan and bicameral manner, and involved the Governors' representatives for each of the seven basin States. Responding to concerns of some in the House and Senate about potential unintended consequences of the legislative language proposed as part of the DCP agreements, several changes were made to provide assurances that the Nationals Environmental Policy Act applies to future Federal actions outside the scope of existing environmental analysis and compliance done in the Upper and Lower Basins.

I would like to thank Senators CORTEZ MASTO, GARDNER, and BARRASSO, along with House Natural Resources Chairman RAÚL GRIJALVA and Ranking Member ROB BISHOP for working with me to reach this compromise legislation.

This exact statutory language is crafted to ensure water conservation activities in the Colorado River Basin can begin in 2019 and be built in to the Annual Operations Plans for 2020. Once the Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan Authorization Act is enacted, execution and implementation of the DCP can and should begin immediately, as all of the actions in the agreements authorized by this bill are well within the scope of existing NEPA and Endangered Species Act compliance in the Upper and Lower Basins. Specifically, the actions to be undertaken are within the analyses and range of effects reviewed in the 2007 final environmental impact statement on Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and Coordinated Operations for Lakes Powell and Mead, and the EISs and ESA documents prepared for operation of the Colorado River Storage Project Act initial storage unit reservoirs. Additional environmental compliance is only applicable should future Federal actions be undertaken that are outside the range of effects analyzed in those documents or the applicable Records of Decision.

In closing, I am proud to have led my colleagues from the seven basin States to get this DCP Authorization Act passed through Congress as quickly as possible, and I thank them for their hard work and support. The Colorado River DCP Act chooses the path of water conservation, compromise, and proactive water management over and litigation, conflict, and creation of a zero sum game on the River. I understand that there will be more work to be done after we have authorized the DCP, but we have made important progress in passing this critical legislation.

CORPS OF ENGINEERS FISCAL YEAR 2020 BUDGET REQUEST

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President I ask unanimous consent that a copy of my opening statement at the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development's budget hearing for the Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation's fiscal year 2020 budget request be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

CORPS OF ENGINEERS FISCAL YEAR 2020 BUDGET REQUEST

Mr. ALEXANDER. First, I would like to thank our witnesses for being here today, and also Senator Feinstein, with whom I have the pleasure to work with again this year to draft the Energy and Water Appropriations bill.

Our witnesses today include: R.D. James, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works; Lieutenant General Todd Semonite, Chief of Engineers for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Brenda Burman, Commissioner for the Bureau of Reclamation at the Department of the Interior; and Timothy R. Petty, Ph.D., Assistant Secretary for Water and Science at the Department of the Interior.

Based on the number of appropriations requests we receive each year, the Corps of Engineers is the federal government's most popular agency. Because this is so important to many Senators, Senator Feinstein and I have provided record level funding in a regular appropriations bill for the last four years.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers touches the lives of almost every American. The Corps maintains our inland waterways, it deepens and keeps our ports open, and its dams provide emission-free, renewable hydroelectric energy. The Corps also manages river levels to help prevent flooding. This year record rainfall caused the Missouri River to experience historic flooding, devastating parts of Iowa, Nebraska and Missouri.

I can recall when, after the Missouri and Mississippi rivers flooded in 2011, a room full of Senators showed up at a Senate Environment and Public Works Committee hearing to ask what went wrong and what went right with disaster relief efforts. So, there's a real interest in what the Corps does.

So, last year, Senator Feinstein and I worked together to provide record funding for the Corps of Engineers—a total of $7 billion. However, this year, the president's budget request only includes $4.8 billion for the Corps—a dramatic reduction in spending. In my opinion, we should spend more, not less, on our nation's water infrastructure.

Today I will focus my questions on four main areas:

1. Making our nation's water infrastructure a priority and properly funding our inland waterways system;

2. Adequately funding our nation's ports and harbors;

3. Making sure the Corps has the resources it needs to respond to flooding and make repairs so they can continue to manage river levels, and;

4. Using a more common-sense approach to making decisions about which projects receive funding by looking at the ''remaining benefit to cost ratio'' of an ongoing project. Today, because of Office of Management and Budget rules, the Corps has to pretend a project is not already under construction when the Corps decides which projects will receive funding each year. This does not make any sense, and makes it harder to complete projects on time and on budget.

In 2012, Senator Graham, Senator Feinstein, and I said, ''Let's ask what would a great country, the United States, want from its ports, locks, dams, and waterways in order to fully maximize them for our economic growth.''

We asked everyone to focus first on what needed to be done and not get bogged down in the difficulties of how to pay for it. From these discussions, Congress took three important steps, focusing on properly funding our inland waterways system.

First, Congress passed a law that reduced the amount of money that comes from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund to replace Olmsted Lock, a project in Illinois and Kentucky that was soaking up almost all of the money that was available for inland waterway projects.

Second, we worked with the commercial waterways industry to establish a priority list for projects that needed to be funded, on which Chickamauga ranks near the top, in fourth place.

And third, we enacted a user fee increase that commercial barge owners asked to pay in order to provide additional funds to replace locks and dams across the country, including Chickamauga Lock.

These steps increased the amount of funding that was available for inland waterways projects from about $85 million in fiscal year 2014 to $105 million in fiscal year 2020. And Congress has followed through by appropriating all of the user fees that have been collected in the last five years. The user fees that are paid into the Inland Waterways Trust Fund by waterway users are matched with federal dollars, which allow the Corps of Engineers to make significant progress to address the backlog of work on our inland waterways.

But despite knowing the Inland Waterways Trust Fund would have $105 million available for fiscal year 2020, the Administration's budget is only proposing to spend $55.5 million—which leaves 47% of these funds sitting unspent in a Treasury account. Then we would not be spending the money for the intended purpose. And despite not spending the entire $105 million in user fees from commercial barges, the administration's budget also includes a new user fee for inland waterways that would raise another $1.8 billion over a 10-year window.

I do not think this is a responsible approach. It makes no sense to ask barge owners to pay more in fees when the administration is not even proposing to spend all the fees we are collecting today. The budget also only proposes to fund a single project using Inland Waterways Trust Fund revenues, the Lower Monongahela, and eliminates funding for the other two projects that have been funded for construction for the last five years—Kentucky Lock and Chickamauga Lock.

I can't count the number of times that the head of the Corps—including General Semonite—has told me that it makes no sense to start and stop construction. It's not an efficient way to build projects and it is a waste of taxpayer money. Replacing Chickamauga Lock is important to all of Tennessee and if Chickamauga Lock closes, it will throw 150,000 more trucks onto 1–75. Funding for construction of the new Chickamauga Lock has been provided for the past five years so it does not make sense for the administration to not include the project in the budget request. This year's budget proposal is a huge step backwards for our nation's inland waterways.

We have done a good job providing record level funding over the last five years to adequately fund our nation's harbors, including Mobile Harbor in Alabama; Savannah Harbor in Georgia; and Long Beach Harbor in California; and many others across the country. Six years ago, Congress took a look at the need to provide more funding for our nation's ports and harbors to ensure we can compete with other harbors around the world. We realized that the government was spending only a fraction of the taxes each year that were collected in the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund for our ports and harbors, resulting in billions of dollars of unspent funds just sitting in a bank account that got bigger and bigger each year.

In fact, unlike the Inland Waterways Trust Fund—which has virtually no balance in the trust fund—the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund has an unspent balance of over $9 billion today. To provide more funding for our ports and harbors, Congress enacted spending targets for the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund in the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 that were meant to make us spend a little more each year on harbor maintenance projects.

We have met these targets for the last five years in the Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill. The target for fiscal year 2020 is about $1.595 billion. However, the administration's budget only proposes to spend $965 million, $585 million less than what Congress appropriated last year and $630 million below the target. So I will ask the witnesses how they plan to sufficiently fund our ports and harbors without requesting adequate resources to do it.

Several members of this subcommittee are interested in making sure the Corps has the resources it needs to deal with the recent flooding in the Midwest and along the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers. I look forward to hearing from the witnesses about what resources they need so that we can make sure they are included in the disaster supplemental appropriation bill.

I'd also like to recognize Brenda Burman, Commissioner from the Bureau of Reclamation and Dr. Timothy Petty, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science at the Department of the Interior. The Bureau of Reclamation delivers water to one of every five farmers in the West, irrigating more than 10 million acres of some of the most productive agricultural land in the country. Although Reclamation doesn't manage water resources in Tennessee, I know of its deep importance to Senator Feinstein and other Senators on this subcommittee, and we look forward to hearing your testimony.

STRENGTHENING ACCOUNTABILITY TO PROTECT STUDENTS AND TAXPAYERS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President I ask unanimous consent that a copy of my opening statement at the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

STRENGTHENING ACCOUNTABILITY TO PROTECT STUDENTS AND TAXPAYERS

Mr. ALEXANDER. When I was president of the University of Tennessee, I asked David Gardner, who was then president of the University of California, why his university was considered one of the best in the world. He told me: First, autonomy. We basically have four branches of government, he said, and one of them is the University of California. Second, competition and choice—large amounts of state and federal money following students to the campus of their choice. Third, a commitment to excellence by institutional leaders and faculty.

As a former university president, I am very much aware that despite that autonomy, our country's 6,000 colleges and universities report to a lot of bosses—they are accountable to a great many individuals, boards, governments and other entities.

First, they are accountable to the students who may take their federal and state grants and loans to any accredited institution that will admit them; next, to 44 federally recognized accrediting agencies whose certification of quality is necessary before institutions are allowed to accept students who bring $30 billion in new Pell grants and $100 billion in in federal student loans each year; to ensure that these billions of dollars are spent wisely, the federal government measures how many students default on their loans; for the 80 percent of students who attend public colleges and universities, states have governors, state legislators, laws, and state higher education authorities; every institution, public or private, also has its own board of trustees or directors; and in addition, there are specific federal rules for the for-profit institutions, which about five percent of students attend, in order to stop fraud against students and taxpayers; and when making a list of bosses, no former university president should leave out the faculty—most faculty members I have known take great pride in maintaining institutional excellence.

So any president of an American higher education institution has a lot of bosses and a lot of people to whom he or she is accountable. And that has been a mostly successful approach. Most surveys show that the United States has most of the best colleges and universities in the world. The dream of many of the best students from around the world is to attend American colleges and universities. Still, I hear often from students asking if college is worth their time and money.

I believe there are steps we can take to make our higher education institutions more accountable—to provide those students, and the taxpayers backing their loans, with a clear yes, college is worth it.

In March, at our first bipartisan hearing during this Congress on updating the Higher Education Act, we looked at how to simplify how 20 million families apply for federal student aid. Last week, we held a bipartisan hearing about how to create a safe environment for students attending college.

Today's hearing will be looking at ways to ensure that students are earning degrees worth their time and money and that taxpayers are paid back the hundreds of billions that they have loaned students to earn degrees.

To hold colleges accountable for the $130 billion a year in grants and loans, in 1990, Congress created the Cohort Default Rate, which applies to all colleges and universities. This measure makes a college ineligible to receive federal student aid if, for three consecutive years, more than 30 percent of its borrowers are in default or over 40 percent in any one year. However this cohort default rate has proven to be a poor instrument of accountability, since it does not take into account the one third of borrowers who are not yet in default but don't make payments on time. Over the last decade, only 20 schools have become ineligible for federal student aid under the Cohort Default Rate, according to the Congressional Research Service.

And then there are two federal accountability rules that apply only to for-profit institutions. One, the 90–10 rule, which requires that at least ten percent of a for-profit's revenue come from nonfederal sources; and two, the Gainful Employment Rule, which looks at how much debt a graduate has compared to his or her salary. This comparison of debt to salary has proved to be a confusing and ineffective measure of accountability because it is too complex and does not account for students who take out loans but do not complete their degrees. So we need a more effective measure of accountability.

But I do not want the federal government acting as a sort of National School Board for Colleges—telling states and accreditors and boards of directors at institutions how to manage the 6,000 colleges and universities. Four years ago, this Committee passed the Every Student Succeeds Act, which reversed the trend towards a national school board for elementary and secondary education. For the same reasons, Washington should resist the urge to send thousands of federal bureaucrats to evaluate our colleges and universities, which would, in effect, create a national school board for colleges.

Instead, Congress should create a new measure of accountability that looks at whether students are actually repaying their loans. This would be a more effective and simpler way to ensure that taxpayers aren't financing degrees that are priced so high and worth so little that students are never able to pay back their loans. This proposal is much like the Gainful Employment Rule—but it would apply to every program at every college—public, private, and for-profit and would include students who took out loans but dropped out before graduating. For some programs, this new measure should provide colleges with an incentive to lower tuition and help their students stay in school to finish their degrees and find a job so they can repay their loans.

A second step to improve accountability would be for the federal government to make the data it collects from colleges more useful to students and families. The Department has struggled for years under all administrations to make such information easily accessible to students and families. As we work on updating the Higher Education Act, we first need to identify what information schools actually need to report, and second to provide direction to the Department on how to make that information accessible and useful to students.

And third, we should strengthen the 44 federally recognized accrediting agencies upon which we rely for certifying that students are receiving a quality education. For example, instead of requiring that accreditors

have a standard of ''student achievement,'' Congress could more clearly require that accreditors measure whether students are both learning and succeeding, but leave the specific ways of measuring those to accreditors and institutions.

Our goal needs to be to help students know that their degrees are going to be worth their time and money and to help taxpayers know that the federal government isn't financing programs that do not provide students with a valuable education.

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION ACT

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, 30 years ago today, the Whistleblower Protection Act was signed into law. To call it a triumph doesn't do justice to the sheer number of years and people it took on both sides of the aisle to overcome numerous obstacles and enact Federal protections for Federal Government employees who step forward and do what we all should do: expose wrongdoings in order to hold government officials and agencies accountable.

Congressional efforts to protect whistleblowers date back to at least 1912 with the enactment of the Lloyd-La Follette Act. This act guaranteed the right of Federal employees to communicate with Members of Congress without the oversight of their employer and prohibited compensation to managers who retaliated against employees attempting to disclose whistleblower matters.

However, empowering Federal employees to speak up and speak the truth was and continues to be an ongoing struggle, one that has often pitted Congress against the executive branch. When President George H.W. Bush signed the Whistleblower Protection Act into law that April morning in 1989, it came after his predecessor President Ronald Reagan had vetoed a similar bill despite the fact that it had been unanimously adopted by both the Senate and the House.

The Whistleblower Protection Act, itself, was first introduced by Representative Pat Schroeder of Colorado as an amendment to the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 and then as a standalone bill in 1982. The principal purpose of the bill was to block retaliation against employees who came forward, a never-ending problem. The bill would have allowed ''a person claiming to be aggrieved by a prohibited personnel practice to: (1) bring a civil action in a U.S. district court against the employee or agency involved (respondent); or (2) seek corrective action through the (Merit Systems Protection) Board.''

While that particular bill ultimately died after receiving unfavorable comments from the U.S. Government Accountability Office—GAO—and the Merit Systems Protection Board, which adjudicates whistleblower complaints, its failure didn't deter our colleagues.

By the time 1989 rolled around, Members of both the House and the Senate, including Senator Carl Levin of Michigan, who spearheaded efforts in the Senate, had worked together for years to find a compromise and pass legislation that protected those employees whose disclosures revealed waste, fraud, or abuse. Between May of 1982 and September of 1989, 28 bills and resolutions with whistleblower protections built into them were introduced, many of them with dozens and dozens of cosponsors.

Since the passage of the Whistleblower Protection Act 30 years ago, Congress has continued to improve protections for whistleblowers, notably with the passage of the Intelligence Community Whistleblower Protection Act of 1998; the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2012; the Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017; and more recently the Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017.

Unfortunately, despite all of these efforts, becoming a whistleblower is still a perilous path. In its latest budget justification, the Office of Special Counsel, the agency that investigates retaliation against Federal whistleblowers, reported that, in fiscal year 2018, that agency received over 4,100 complaints of retaliation, otherwise known as prohibited personnel practices. This, according to OSC, is a new agency record. That is not a record that anyone should be proud of.

As much as today is a celebration of the Whistleblower Protection Act and the work of the many people it took to make those protections law, it is a greater celebration of the courage whistleblowers embody when they step forward to shine a light on waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement in the government. Their bravery and sacrifice is invaluable, and for that, we thank them. Unfortunately, coming forward to do what is right still requires too much of both.

Consequently, Congress still has more work to do to protect whistleblowers, and I call on my colleagues to remember the value of citizens being able to blow the whistle. As Representative Schroeder said early on in her efforts to help whistleblowers: ''If we in Congress are going to act as effective checks on excesses in the executive branch, we have to hear about such matters.''

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

ROTARY CLUB OF CASPER CENTENNIA CELEBRATION

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, today I wish to celebrate the Centennial of the Rotary Club of Casper, Wyoming, a club which holds special importance for my wife, Bobbi and me.

On Saturday, May 4, 2019, the Rotary Club of Casper will recognize their 100th anniversary at a special celebration. Rotary organized in Casper, WY on March 12, 1919, just 14 years after the first Rotary club was formed in Chicago, and 28 years after Wyoming's admission to the Union.

At a luncheon on March 12, 1919, 15 businessmen, representing all walks of Casper life, met and elected their leadership—President James T. Gratiot, Directors Loui McMahon, Steve Starrett, George Nelson, Billy Johnson, Carl Shumaker, and Otis Walker. With a shared mission and sense of duty, these charter members laid the groundwork for a century to come.

The Casper Daily Tribune noted Rotary's founding in an article the following day, March 13, 1919, ''The purpose of the club is to encourage business and social relations and its bylaws define the policies of the club in a way that marks various departures from other clubs or societies.'' With this in mind, the club hit the ground running, impacting the Casper community in positive and distinct ways.

Within their first years of forming, Casper Rotary's commitment to the community was proven and acknowledged. As early as 1920–21, with memories of WWI fresh in their minds, they voted to support and donate funds to the construction of an air base near Casper. This air base, established in 1942, would come to fruition as the Casper Army Air Field. Governor Bryant B. Brooks, who would join the club and become president, noticed their initiative and addressed the club early on. This began a pattern with the club hosting a great number of Wyoming Governors, U.S. Senators and Congressmen, and local officials.

The Rotary Club of Casper always realized the importance of the youth of their community. From the beginning, the club sponsored the Boy and Girl Scouts. They established a student loan fund for students wishing to further their education and engaged with high school students to encourage their ambition. They were part of the effort to bring a junior college to Casper, lobbying the State legislature in Cheyenne. Their efforts were rewarded in 1945, when Casper College was established as Wyoming's first junior college.

Countless dollars and volunteer hours were donated and continue to be given to the creation of parks, camps, playgrounds, and swimming pools for the community. The most well-known is Rotary Park on Casper Mountain. Popular since the early 1940s, Rotary Park contains the picturesque Garden Creek Falls and Bridle Trail. Additionally, each August, Rotary helps host Casper's Riverfest and the Great Duck Derby. Rubber ducks fill the North Platte River with the proceeds going to the area's trail systems. The club's continuing engagement and investment in future projects ensure these areas are enjoyed for generations to come.

The history of Casper's Rotary Club is a microcosm of the history of Casper. Professionals encompassing the

entire Casper community worked together throughout the years to promote good will, service, and character. For the club's 40th anniversary celebration in 1959, Rotarian M. E. ''Monte'' Robertson wrote, ''We can all be justly proud of our Casper Rotary Club, of the pioneers who constituted its membership in the beginning, and the character and quality of those members who have carried on until the present day.'' These words hold true today with the leadership of President Dick Jay, President Elect John Griffith, President Elect Nominee Lisa Scroggins, and Centennial Committee Chair Barry Johnson.

It is a high honor for me to rise in recognition of this significant milestone for the Rotary Club of Casper. I have seen firsthand the important work the club does, as Bobbi and I have been fortunate to call ourselves Rotarians. Since my days as an orthopedic surgeon in Casper, I have been involved with Casper Rotary for 36 years. We made countless lifelong friendships along the way and continue to appreciate the dedication of our fellow members.

It is a great privilege to recognize this incredible service organization and their dedication to the betterment of their Wyoming community. Bobbi joins me in extending our congratulations and deep gratitude to the Rotary Club of Casper on their centennial celebration.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13536 ON APRIL 12, 2010 WITH RESPECT TO SOMALIA—PM 9

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days before the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13536 of April 12, 2010, with respect to Somalia is to continue in effect beyond April 12, 2019.

The United States is strongly committed to Somalia's stabilization, and it is important to maintain sanctions against persons undermining its stability. The situation with respect to Somalia continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13536 with respect to Somalia.

DONALD J. TRUMP.
THE WHITE HOUSE, *April 10, 2019.*

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 9:56 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. 1759. An act to amend title III of the Social Security Act to extend reemployment services and eligibility assessments to all claimants for unemployment benefits, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1957. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modernize and improve the Internal Revenue Service, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 7. Concurrent resolution authorizing the printing of the 26th edition of the pocket version of the Constitution of the United States.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 31. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 1:29 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 1839. An act to amend title XIX to extend protection for Medicaid recipients of home and community-based services against spousal impoverishment, establish a State Medicaid option to provide coordinated care to children with complex medical conditions through health homes, prevent the misclassification of drugs for purposes of the Medicaid drug rebate program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2030. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to execute and carry out agreements concerning Colorado River Drought Contingency Management and Operations, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

The President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY) announced that on today, April 10, 2019, he has signed the following enrolled joint resolution, which was previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

S.J. Res. 7. Joint resolution to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Yemen that have not been authorized by Congress.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 1585. An act to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–920. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''2-Hydroxypropyl Starch; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance'' (FRL No. 9991–13–OCSPP) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 5, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–921. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Flonicamid; Pesticide Tolerances'' (FRL No. 9990–52–OCSPP) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 5, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–922. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Financial Surveillance Examination Program Requirements for Self-Regulatory Organizations'' (RIN3038–AE73) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–923. A communication from the Secretary of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Segregation of Assets Held as Collateral in Uncleared Swap Transactions'' (RIN3038–AE78) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–924. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting legislative proposals relative to the ''National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020''; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–925. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting legislative proposals relative to the ''National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020''; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–926. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Manpower and Reserve Affairs), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the mobilizations of selected reserve units, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 5, 2019; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–927. A communication from the Senior Official performing the duties of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of three (3) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777, this will not cause the Department to exceed the number of frocked officers authorized; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–928. A communication from the Senior Official performing the duties of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of rear admiral (lower half) in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777, this will not cause the Department to exceed the number of frocked officers authorized; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–929. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of a national emergency declared in Executive Order 13222 with respect to the lapse of the Export Administration Act of 1979; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–930. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the threat of foreign interference in United States elections that was declared in Executive Order 13848 of September 12, 2018; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–931. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Venezuela that was declared in Executive Order 13692 of March 8, 2015; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–932. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's fiscal year 2018 Annual Performance Report and fiscal year 2020 Annual Performance Plan; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–933. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy for the position of Administrator, Federal Transit Administration, Department of Transportation, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 5, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–934. A communication from the General Counsel of the National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Loans to Members and Lines of Credit to Members'' (RIN3133–AE88) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 5, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–935. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Department's Alternative Fuel Vehicle (AFV) program for fiscal year 2018; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–936. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Interlocking Officers and Directors; Requirements for Applicants and Holders'' ((RIN1902–AF53) (Docket No. RM15–18–000)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 9, 2019; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–937. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Navigational Improvement Project for the Port of Seattle, Washington; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–938. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy for the position of Administrator, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 5, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–939. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Florida; 2008 8-hour Ozone Interstate Transport'' (FRL No. 9991–96–Region 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 5, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–940. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Kentucky: Jefferson County Prevention of Significant Deterioration'' (FRL No. 9991–95–Region 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 5, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–941. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Kentucky; Regional Haze Plan and Prong 4 (Visibility) for the 1997 Ozone, 2010 NO2, 2010 SO2, and 2012 PM2.5 NAAQS'' (FRL No. 9991–82–Region 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 5, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–942. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; North Carolina; Miscellaneous Rules'' (FRL No. 9991–94–Region 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 5, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–943. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; OR; Update to Materials Incorporated by Reference'' (FRL No. 9990–80–Region 10) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 5, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–944. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Wyoming; Interstate Transport for the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard'' (FRL No. 9991–74–Region 8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 5, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–945. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Clean Data Determination; Provo, Utah 2006 Fine Particulate Matter Standards Nonattainment Area'' (FRL No. 9991–76–Region 8) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 5, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–946. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances'' (FRL No. 9991–19–OCSPP) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 5, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–947. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Medicaid; Revisions to State Medicaid Fraud Control Unit Rules'' (RIN0936–AA07) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 5, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–948. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Medicaid Program; Covered Outpatient Drug; Line Extension Definition; and Change to the Rebate Calculation for Line Extension Drugs'' (RIN 0938–AT09) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 5, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–949. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, two reports relative to the Treaty Between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (the New START Treaty); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–950. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data and defense services, to Turkey, Poland, and the United Kingdom for the manufacture, inspection, test, delivery, and repair of machined parts, machined assemblies, and components for the H–60/S–70, H–53, and H–92 model helicopters in the amount of $100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 18–021); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–951. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles, including technical data and defense services, to Qatar to support the manufacture of the fusion rifle

scope/target illuminator system in the amount of $1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 18–067); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–952. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms abroad controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions Lists of 7.62mm rifles and suppressors to the Philippines for end use by the Department of National Defense in the amount of $1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 18–092); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–953. A communication from the Deputy Director, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Compliance with Statutory Program Integrity Requirements'' (RIN0937–AA07) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 9, 2019; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–954. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Reinstatement of Color Additive Listing for Lead Acetate'' (Docket No. FDA–2017–C–1951) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 5, 2019; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–955. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Medical Devices; Orthopedic Devices; Classification of Posterior Cervical Screw Systems'' ((RIN0910–AI00) (Docket No. FDA–2015–N–3785)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 5, 2019; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–956. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Microbiology Devices; Classification of In Vitro Diagnostic Devices for Bacillus Species Detection'' ((RIN0910–AH98) (Docket No. FDA–2011–N–0103)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 5, 2019; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–957. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Medical Devices; Technical Amendment'' (Docket No. FDA–2019–N–1345) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 5, 2019; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–958. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Removal of Certain Time of Inspection and Duties of Inspector Regulations for Biological Products'' ((RIN0910–AH49) (Docket No. FDA–2017–N–7007)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 5, 2019; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–959. A communication from the Acting Secretary of the Commission, Bureau of Competition, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revised Jurisdictional Thresholds for Section 7A of the Clayton Act'' received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2019; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–960. A communication from the Acting Secretary of the Commission, Bureau of Competition, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revised Jurisdictional Thresholds for Section 8 of the Clayton Act'' received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2019; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–961. A communication from the Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), transmitting, pursuant to law, three (3) reports relative to vacancies in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–962. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy for the position of Assistant Secretary for Research & Technology, Office of the Secretary, Department of Transportation, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 5, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–963. A communication from the Acting Secretary of the Commission, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Deceptive Advertising as to Sizes of Viewable Pictures Shown by Television Receiving Sets'' (16 CFR Part 410) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 8, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–964. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; 2018 Sector Operations Plans and Allocation of Northeast Multispecies Annual Catch Entitlements'' (RIN0648–XG051) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 9, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–965. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''International Fisheries; Western and Central Pacific Fisheries for Highly Migratory Species' Bigeye Tuna Catch Limits in Longline Fisheries for 2017'' (RIN0648–BG78) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 9, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–966. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Modifications to the Number of Unrigged Hooks Carried on Board Bottom Longline Vessels'' (RIN0648–BG92) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 9, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–967. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Electronic Reporting Requirements'' (RIN0648–AP66) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 9, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–968. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Framework for Treaty Tribe Harvest of Pacific Groundfish and 1996 Makah Whiting Allocation'' (RIN0648–AH84) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 9, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment:

S. 195. A bill to require the Director of the Government Publishing Office to establish and maintain a website accessible to the public that allows the public to obtain electronic copies of all congressionally mandated reports in one place, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116–31).

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with amendments:

S. 196. A bill to save taxpayer money and improve the efficiency and speed of intragovernmental correspondence, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116–32).

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment:

S. 387. A bill to prohibit Federal agencies and Federal contractors from requesting that an applicant for employment disclose criminal history record information before the applicant has received a conditional offer, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116–33).

By Mr. BARRASSO, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works , without amendment:

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. 747. A bill to reauthorize the diesel emissions reduction program, and for other purposes.

S. 1061. A bill to amend the John F. Kennedy Center Act to authorize appropriations for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and for other purposes.

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. RUBIO (for himself and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 1101. A bill to ensure that only licensed health care providers furnish disability examinations under a certain Department of Veterans Affairs pilot program for use contract physicians for disability examinations,

and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 1102. A bill to promote security and energy partnerships in the Eastern Mediterranean, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. PERDUE, and Mr. HAWLEY):

S. 1103. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to establish a skills-based immigration points system, to focus on family-sponsored immigration on spouses and minor children, to eliminate the Diversity Visa Program, to set a limit on the number of refugees admitted annually to the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 1104. A bill to prohibit the General Services Administration from awarding contracts to certain insured depository institutions that avoid doing business with certain companies that are engaged in lawful commerce based solely on social policy considerations; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. ROUNDS, and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 1105. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish and maintain a registry for certain individuals who may have been exposed to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances due to the environmental release of aqueous film-forming foam on military installations; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. HARRIS (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 1106. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow for a credit against tax for rent paid on the personal residence of the taxpayer; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 1107. A bill to require a review of women and lung cancer, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 1108. A bill to direct the Federal Trade Commission to require entities that use, store, or share personal information to conduct automated decision system impact assessments and data protection impact assessments; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. HARRIS (for herself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 1109. A bill to establish as a unit of the National Park System the San Gabriel National Recreation Area in the State of California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. HARRIS (for herself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 1110. A bill to provide for restoration, economic development, recreation, and conservation on Federal lands in Northern California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. HARRIS (for herself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 1111. A bill to designate certain Federal land in the State of California as wilderness, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 1112. A bill to improve the safety of the air supply on commercial aircraft, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN:

S. 1113. A bill to protect and enhance core diplomatic capabilities at the Department of State; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself and Mr. KING):

S. 1114. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to eliminate a provision under the Medicare Advantage program that inadvertently penalizes Medicare Advantage plans for providing high quality care to Medicare beneficiaries; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BURR (for himself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. ENZI):

S. 1115. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prohibit the Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service from rehiring any employee of the Internal Revenue Service who was involuntarily separated from service for misconduct; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN:

S. 1116. A bill to require providers of broadband internet access service and edge services to clearly and conspicuously notify users of the privacy policies of those providers, to give users opt-in or opt-out approval rights with respect to the use of, disclosure of, and access to user information collected by those providers based on the level of sensitivity of the information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. GARDNER):

S. 1117. A bill to establish a career pathway grant program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. REED):

S. 1118. A bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to authorize spouses of servicemembers who incur a catastrophic injury or illness or die while in military service to terminate leases of premises and motor vehicles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. UDALL (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CASEY, Mr. GARDNER, Ms. SMITH, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 1119. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to prohibit the stigmatization of children who are unable to pay for meals; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. 1120. A bill to amend chapter 6 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Regulatory Flexibility Act''), to ensure complete analysis of potential impacts on small entities of rules, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself and Mr. KING):

S. 1121. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code 1986 to exclude major professional sports leagues from qualifying as tax-exempt organizations; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 1122. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend projects relating to children and to provide access to school-based comprehensive mental health programs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BENNET, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CARPER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. SMITH, Mr. CASEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. PETERS):

S. 1123. A bill to transfer and limit Executive Branch authority to suspend or restrict the entry of a class of aliens; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TESTER:

S. 1124. A bill to require the establishment of a working group to evaluate the food safety threat posed by beef and poultry imported from Brazil, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. PERDUE, Ms. ERNST, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. BURR, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. COTTON, and Ms. MCSALLY):

S. 1125. A bill to amend the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. CAPITO (for herself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 1126. A bill to provide better care for Americans living with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias and their caregivers, while accelerating progress toward prevention strategies, disease modifying treatments, and, ultimately, a cure; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 1127. A bill to amend the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 to require the Secretary of Energy to report to Congress regarding applications for authorizations to engage or participate in the development or production of special nuclear material outside the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 1128. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emission fees, provide tax credits to workers, deliver additional benefits to retired and disabled Americans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. UDALL, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 1129. A bill to establish a Medicare-for-all national health insurance program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. JONES):

S. 1130. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the health of children and help better understand and enhance awareness about unexpected sudden death in early life; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 1131. A bill to establish family and medical leave banks to provide paid leave for employees of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 1132. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make improvements in the old-age, survivors, and disability insurance program, and to provide for Social Security benefit protection; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself, Ms. ERNST, Mr. SASSE, and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 1133. A bill to provide disaster tax relief for certain disasters occurring in 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRAMER (for himself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 1134. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an investment tax credit related to the production of electricity from nuclear energy; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SULLIVAN:

S. 1135. A bill to protect Federal, State, and local public safety officers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 1136. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize concurrent use of Department of Defense Tuition Assistance and Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve benefits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. STABENOW:

S. 1137. A bill to prioritize education and training for current and future members of the environmental health workforce; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. JONES, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 1138. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the earned income and child tax credits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CARPER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. UDALL):

S. 1139. A bill to reauthorize and amend the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Mr. CASEY):

S. Res. 153. A resolution reaffirming the unique collaboration among United States nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), including faith-based organizations, and the Israel Defense Forces to deliver humanitarian assistance to Syrians; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. HARRIS (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. Res. 154. A resolution recognizing the week of April 11 through April 17, 2019, as ''Black Maternal Health Week'' to bring national attention to the maternal health crisis in the Black community and the importance of reducing maternal mortality and morbidity among Black women; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. Res. 155. A resolution relative to the death of the Honorable Ernest F. Hollings, former United States Senator for the State of South Carolina; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BURR (for himself, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. Res. 156. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work Day; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Ms. STABENOW):

S. Res. 157. A resolution supporting the designation of April 2019 as ''Parkinson's Awareness Month''; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. BLUNT):

S. Res. 158. A resolution authorizing the use of the atrium in the Philip A. Hart Senate Office Building for the National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, a semiannual event of the Drug Enforcement Administration; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 64

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 64, a bill to prohibit brand name drug companies from compensating generic drug companies to delay the entry of a generic drug into the market, and to prohibit biological product manufacturers from compensating biosimilar and interchangeable companies to delay the entry of biosimilar biological products and interchangeable biological products.

S. 151

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) were added as cosponsors of S. 151, a bill to deter criminal robocall violations and improve enforcement of section 227(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, and for other purposes.

S. 227

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 227, a bill to direct the Attorney General to review, revise, and develop law enforcement and justice protocols appropriate to address missing and murdered Indians, and for other purposes.

S. 287

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 287, a bill to amend the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 to impose limitations on the authority of the President to adjust imports that are determined to threaten to impair national security, and for other purposes.

S. 362

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) were added as cosponsors of S. 362, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform taxation of alcoholic beverages.

S. 371

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) were added as cosponsors of S. 371, a bill to provide regulatory relief to charitable organizations that provide housing assistance, and for other purposes.

S. 427

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 427, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to enhance activities of the National Institutes of Health with respect to research on autism spectrum disorder and enhance programs relating to autism, and for other purposes.

S. 460

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 460, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the exclusion for employer-provided education assistance to employer payments of student loans.

S. 504

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 504, a bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to authorize The American Legion to determine the requirements for membership in The American Legion, and for other purposes.

S. 518

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) were added as cosponsors of S. 518, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of certain lymphedema compression treatment items as items of durable medical equipment.

S. 598

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Montana

(Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 598, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase certain funeral benefits for veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 599

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 599, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to aliens associated with criminal gangs, and for other purposes.

S. 600

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 600, a bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to establish a working group to study regulatory and legislative improvements for the livestock, insect, and agricultural commodities transport industries, and for other purposes.

S. 605

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 605, a bill to assist States in carrying out projects to expand the child care workforce and child care facilities in the States, and for other purposes.

S. 622

At the request of Mr. JONES, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) were added as cosponsors of S. 622, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 634

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 634, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish tax credits to encourage individual and corporate taxpayers to contribute to scholarships for students through eligible scholarship-granting organizations and eligible workforce training organizations, and for other purposes.

S. 651

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 651, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the age requirement with respect to eligibility for qualified ABLE programs.

S. 665

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 665, a bill to reduce the number of preventable deaths and injuries caused by underride crashes, to improve motor carrier and passenger motor vehicle safety, and for other purposes.

S. 666

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 666, a bill to require the Secretary of Labor to award grants to organizations for the provision of transition assistance to members and former members of the Armed Forces who are separated, retired, or discharged from the Armed Forces, and spouses of such members, and for other purposes.

S. 703

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 703, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to address health, safety, and environmental hazards at private military housing units, to prohibit the payment by members of the Armed Forces of deposits or other fees relating to such housing units, and for other purposes.

S. 726

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 726, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to ensure the safety of cosmetics.

S. 742

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 742, a bill to protect children through eliminating visa loopholes.

S. 758

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 758, a bill to ensure affordable abortion coverage and care for every woman, and for other purposes.

S. 800

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 800, a bill to establish a postsecondary student data system.

S. 820

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 820, a bill to strengthen programs authorized under the Debbie Smith Act of 2004.

S. 824

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) were added as cosponsors of S. 824, a bill to increase the number of States that may conduct Medicaid demonstration programs to improve access to community mental health services.

S. 880

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) were added as cosponsors of S. 880, a bill to provide outreach and reporting on comprehensive Alzheimer's disease care planning services furnished under the Medicare program.

S. 901

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 901, a bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to support individuals with younger onset Alzheimer's disease.

S. 903

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 903, a bill to direct the Secretary of Energy to establish advanced nuclear goals, provide for a versatile, reactor-based fast neutron source, make available high-assay, low-enriched uranium for research, development, and demonstration of advanced nuclear reactor concepts, and for other purposes.

S. 983

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 983, a bill to amend the Energy Conservation and Production Act to reauthorize the weatherization assistance program, and for other purposes.

S. 998

At the request of Mr. HAWLEY, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 998, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to expand support for police officer family services, stress reduction, and suicide prevention, and for other purposes.

S. 1033

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1033, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a public health insurance option, and for other purposes.

S. 1037

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1037, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to modernize provisions relating to rural health clinics under Medicare.

S. 1068

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1068, a bill to secure the Federal voting rights of persons when released from incarceration.

S. RES. 85

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 85, a resolution recognizing the 100th anniversary of the founding of Easterseals, a leading advocate and service provider for children and adults with disabilities, including veterans and older

adults, and their caregivers and families.

S. RES. 128

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 128, a resolution commemorating the 100th anniversary of the National Parks Conservation Association.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 1108. A bill to direct the Federal Trade Commission to require entities that use, store, or share personal information to conduct automated decision system impact assessments and data protection impact assessments; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I, along with my colleague Senator BOOKER of New Jersey, are introducing the Algorithmic Accountability Act. This bill is a critical first step to address the use of biased or discriminatory algorithmic decisions impacting American consumers. It is a bicameral effort, led in the House of Representatives by Congresswoman YVETTE CLARKE, vice chair of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Today's biggest companies are increasingly using algorithms to make decisions about consumers. The use by companies of algorithms can often benefit consumers, and these technologies have been critical in the creation of thousands of American companies. Alongside this beneficial proliferation, algorithms have become entrenched in the most life-changing of decisions. Algorithms can now determine whether Americans are hired for a dream job, are approved for a home mortgage, or even sent to jail.

But, as history has shown, a win for the corporation is not always a win for the consumer. And, in this case, when consumers lose, all too often they are a woman or an American of color. Though an innovation critical for future growth, algorithms can be as discriminatory as the humans they have begun to replace.

The issue is a simple one: While algorithms come to conclusions based on calculations, these calculations are created by humans or use data collected and supplied by humans. And, unfortunately, we humans can be biased, whether we know it or not, or we can created algorithms that, in time, create biases of their own.

Thanks to a flood of news reports and investigations detailing algorithms-gone-wrong, these issues are coming to light. Yet, American companies and the U.S. government are doing far too little to assess whether their own algorithms depend on biased assumptions, have created biases assumptions, and have the effect of increasing discrimination in the U.S.

Senator BOOKER and I intend to change that by ensuring that today's racial, social, and gender biases do not become entrenched in the automation of tomorrow.

Our bill has four main components.

First, it authorizes the Federal Trade Commission to create regulations requiring companies under its jurisdiction to conduct impact assessments of highly sensitive algorithms. This requirement would apply not only to new algorithmic systems, but also those that are both new and already in existence.

Second, it requires companies to assess their use of algorithms—including any relevant training data—for impacts on accuracy, fairness, bias, discrimination, privacy, and security.

Third, it requires companies to evaluate how their information systems protect the privacy and security of consumers' personal information.

And, finally, it requires companies to correct any issues they discover during the impact assessments.

This legislation is in no way intended to hinder the adoption by American companies of advanced technologies like algorithms. Automated decision systems are out there, and they are being adopted into commercial decision-making processes.

What we are seeking to do with this bill is to ensure that companies take a hard look at their own technologies to ensure that they address any unintended side effects.

Mr. President, it is time for Congress to get involved by requiring companies to address biases and unintended discriminatory effects in their automated decision systems.

I thank my colleague Senator BOOKER for his efforts on this bill, and I hope the Senate will promptly consider and pass this critical legislation.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. GILIBRAND, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 1132. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make improvements in the old-age, survivors, and disability insurance program, and to provide for Social Security benefit protection; to the Committee on Finance.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to express my support for the Protecting and Preserving Social Security Act, which I was proud to reintroduce earlier this afternoon with Senators SMITH, GILLIBRAND and MERKLEY, and Congressman DEUTCH—who introduced the bill in the House.

Social Security serves as a critical lifeline for millions of individuals and families in Hawaii and throughout the United States. For seniors, the program is fundamental to retirement security, and for families, it provides economic security. Countless individuals rely on Social Security as a key source of income, so we must continue fighting to protect the program and make sure beneficiaries receive the hard-earned benefits they deserve. The Protecting and Preserving Social Security Act does two things.

First, the bill restores fairness in Social Security payroll taxes by eliminating the contribution cap on taxable income—gradually, over seven years.

What does this mean? Currently, most Americans contribute 6.2 percent of their incomes toward Social Security payroll taxes. However, because of the contribution cap on taxable income, higher income earners will stop contributing to Social Security after their first $132,900 of income for 2019. This means that many working and middle class families will contribute more of their income toward Social Security, while wealthy families will contribute less.

In fact, for the highest income earners, those in the ''top 1 percent'', this week marks the point in the year when they will stop contributing to the program altogether for 2019. That does not seem fair, so our bill makes sure that everyone contributes their fair share to Social Security for the entire year, and that the wealthiest individuals and families in our country do not receive a tax break at the expense of working and middle class families.

Second, the bill provides an updated measure of inflation to reflect what seniors and other beneficiaries actually pay for things like medical care, prescription drugs, and energy costs, and increases their benefits based on this measure. The Social Security Administration has indicated that these changes, taken together, would increase Social Security benefits and extend the life of the combined Social Security trust fund by another 19 years—from 2034 to 2053.

These are modest but important steps that we can take to improve the program for current and future beneficiaries.

Locally in Hawaii, we recognize that whatever hurts the most vulnerable in our communities, hurts all of us. We each have a role to play in supporting our communities. That is why my colleagues and I have reintroduced this legislation to strengthen Social Security. We will continue fighting for working and middle class families who rely on Social Security and similar programs, and we will continue to oppose cuts to Social Security—which would be devastating for millions of Americans. We will continue fighting to make sure everyone contributes their fair share so that Social Security can deliver on its promise to the American people.

I thank my colleagues for joining me in reintroducing this important legislation as we continue our work to strengthen Social Security. I yield the floor.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 153—REAFFIRMING THE UNIQUE COLLABORATION AMONG UNITED STATES NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS), INCLUDING FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS, AND THE ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCES TO DELIVER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SYRIANS

Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Mr. CASEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 153

Whereas the Syrian civil war, now in its eighth year, has forced 14,000,000 Syrians to flee, more than half of the country's pre-war population, with 6,500,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) still within the country;

Whereas ''Operation Good Neighbor'' is a program of the Israel Defense Forces to provide humanitarian relief to Syrians;

Whereas Operation Good Neighbor worked with United States nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to help forge unprecedented partnerships between the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) and Syrian NGOs, which opened a new channel for the delivery of humanitarian assistance;

Whereas, as a result, food, fuel, medicine, ambulances, and medical supplies were flowing cross-border from Israel into southern Syria;

Whereas this new channel permitted these goods to arrive at Israeli ports, and be trucked by the IDF through Israel to the border with Syria;

Whereas, at the border, the IDF transferred these containers to Syrian NGOs for transport and distribution to IDPs and local residents in previously hard-to-reach locations in southern Syria;

Whereas United States NGOs, including faith-based organizations, facilitated the relationships between the Syrian NGOs and the IDF by providing overall coordination and support for this regional cooperation to help promote regional peace through a multifaceted humanitarian relief operation;

Whereas the program initially reached only villages along the border, but expanded to a broader area of southern Syria, and as deliveries continued on a sustained basis, the initiative ultimately reached an even greater population; and

Whereas, in addition to the value of the humanitarian relief itself, the Syrian/Israeli partnerships, created and reinforced through the success of the new channel, demonstrated the value of cooperation and continues to serve as a role model for strengthened positive relations between Syrians and Israelis: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate hereby reaffirms the unique collaboration between United States nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), including faith-based organizations, and Syrian NGOs and the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) for having provided vital aid to internally displaced people and local residents in southern Syria while also countering generations of hostility, promoting dialogue between neighbors, and ultimately advancing long-term stability in the region.

SENATE RESOLUTION 154—RECOGNIZING THE WEEK OF APRIL 11 THROUGH APRIL 17, 2019, AS ''BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK'' TO BRING NATIONAL ATTENTION TO THE MATERNAL HEALTH CRISIS IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY AND THE IMPORTANCE OF REDUCING MATERNAL MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY AMONG BLACK WOMEN

Ms. HARRIS (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 154

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Black mothers in the United States are 3 to 4 times more likely than White mothers to die from pregnancy-related causes;

Whereas Black women in the United States suffer from life-threatening pregnancy complications, known as ''maternal morbidities'', twice as often as White women;

Whereas maternal mortality rates in the United States are—

(1) among the highest in the developed world; and

(2) increasing rapidly;

Whereas the United States has the highest maternal mortality rate among affluent countries, in part because of the disproportionate mortality rate of Black mothers;

Whereas Black women are 49 percent more likely than White women to deliver prematurely;

Whereas the high rates of maternal mortality among Black women span across—

(1) income levels;

(2) education levels; and

(3) socioeconomic status;

Whereas structural racism, gender oppression, and the social determinants of health inequities experienced by Black women in the United States significantly contribute to the disproportionately high rates of maternal mortality and morbidity among Black women;

Whereas racism and discrimination play a consequential role in maternal health care, experiences, and outcomes;

Whereas a fair distribution of resources, especially with regard to reproductive health care services and maternal health programming, is critical to closing the maternal health racial disparity gap;

Whereas, even as there is growing concern about improving access to mental health services, Black women are least likely to have access to mental health screenings, treatment, and support before, during, and after pregnancy;

Whereas justice-informed, culturally congruent models of care are beneficial to Black women; and

Whereas an investment must be made in—

(1) maternity care for Black women; and

(2) policies that support and promote affordable, comprehensive, and holistic maternal health care that is free from gender and racial discrimination: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes—

(1) that Black women are experiencing high, disproportionate rates of maternal mortality and morbidity in the United States;

(2) that the alarmingly high rates of maternal mortality among Black women are unacceptable;

(3) that, in order to better mitigate the effects of systemic and structural racism, Congress must work toward ensuring that the Black community has—

(A) adequate housing;

(B) transportation equity;

(C) nutritious food;

(D) clean water;

(E) environments free from toxins;

(F) fair treatment within the criminal justice system;

(G) safety and freedom from violence;

(H) a living wage;

(I) equal economic opportunity; and

(J) comprehensive, affordable health care;

(4) that, in order to improve maternal health outcomes, Congress must fully support and encourage policies grounded in the human rights and reproductive justice frameworks that address Black maternal health inequity;

(5) that Black women must be active participants in the policy decisions that impact their lives;

(6) that ''Black Maternal Health Week'' is an opportunity—

(A) to raise national awareness of the state of Black maternal health in the United States;

(B) to amplify the voices of Black women, families, and communities;

(C) to serve as a national platform for—

(i) entities led by Black women; and

(ii) efforts on maternal health; and

(D) to enhance community organizing on Black maternal health; and

(7) the significance of April 11 through April 17, 2019, as ''Black Maternal Health Week''.

SENATE RESOLUTION 155—RELATIVE TO THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE ERNEST F. HOLLINGS, FORMER UNITED STATES SENATOR FOR THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 155

Whereas the Honorable Ernest F. Hollings was born in Charleston, South Carolina, in 1922 and graduated from The Citadel and the University of South Carolina School of Law;

Whereas the Honorable Ernest F. Hollings served his country during World War II as an artillery officer in the Army, earning a Bronze Star;

Whereas the Honorable Ernest F. Hollings was elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives in 1949;

Whereas the Honorable Ernest F. Hollings was elected Governor of South Carolina in 1959 and oversaw the establishment of the nationally recognized South Carolina Technical College System;

Whereas the Honorable Ernest F. Hollings served South Carolina with devotion and dedication in the United States Senate for 38 years;

Whereas the Honorable Ernest F. Hollings served the Senate as Chairman of the Committee on the Budget and Chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation;

Whereas the Honorable Ernest F. Hollings fought tirelessly to combat hunger in the United States and was a strong advocate for a robust national defense;

Whereas the Honorable Ernest F. Hollings championed fiscal restraint throughout his

career and was the unheralded force behind the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900 et seq.);

Whereas the Honorable Ernest F. Hollings was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather;

Whereas the service of the Honorable Ernest F. Hollings on behalf of the people of South Carolina and all people of the United States earned him the respect and devotion of his colleagues; and

Whereas the death of the Honorable Ernest F. Hollings has deprived South Carolina and the United States of one of the most outstanding Senators: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable Ernest F. Hollings, former Senator for the State of South Carolina; and

(2) the Secretary of the Senate communicate this resolution to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the Honorable Ernest F. Hollings.

SENATE RESOLUTION 156—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF TAKE OUR DAUGHTERS AND SONS TO WORK DAY

Mr. BURR (for himself, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. TILLIS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 156

Whereas the Take Our Daughters To Work program was created in New York City as a response to research that showed that, by the 8th grade, many girls were dropping out of school, had low self-esteem, and lacked confidence;

Whereas, in 2003, the name of the program was changed to ''Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work'' so that boys who face many of the same challenges as girls could also be involved in the program;

Whereas, in 2019, the mission of the program, to develop ''innovative strategies that empower girls and boys to overcome societal barriers to reach their full potential'', fully reflects the addition of boys;

Whereas the Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work Foundation, a nonprofit organization, has grown to be one of the largest public awareness campaigns, with more than 40,000,000 participants annually in more than 3,500,000 organizations and workplaces representing each State;

Whereas, in 2007, the Take Our Daughters To Work program transitioned to Elizabeth City, North Carolina, became known as the Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work Foundation, and received national recognition for its dedication to future generations;

Whereas, every year, mayors, Governors, and other private and public officials sign proclamations and lend support to Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work Day;

Whereas the fame of the Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work program has spread overseas, with requests and inquiries being made from around the world on how to operate the program;

Whereas 2019 marks the 26th anniversary of the Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work program;

Whereas Take Our Daughters And Sons to Work Day will be observed on Thursday, April 25, 2019; and

Whereas, by offering opportunities for children to experience activities and events, Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work Day is intended to continue helping millions of girls and boys on an annual basis to examine their opportunities and strive to reach their fullest potential: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the goals of introducing daughters and sons to the workplace; and

(2) commends all participants of Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work Day for—

(A) the ongoing contributions that the participants make to education; and

(B) the vital role that the participants play in promoting and ensuring a brighter, stronger future for the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 157—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF APRIL 2019 AS ''PARKINSON'S AWARENESS MONTH''

Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Ms. STABENOW) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 157

Whereas Parkinson's disease is a chronic, progressive neurological disease and the second most common neurodegenerative disease in the United States;

Whereas, although there is inadequate data on the incidence and prevalence of Parkinson's disease, the disease is estimated to affect between 500,000 and 1,000,000 individuals in the United States, with that number expected to more than double by 2040;

Whereas, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Parkinson's disease is the 14th leading cause of death in the United States;

Whereas millions of individuals in the United States are greatly impacted by Parkinson's disease, including the caregivers, family members, and friends of individuals living with Parkinson's disease;

Whereas research suggests that the cause of Parkinson's disease is a combination of genetic and environmental factors, but the exact cause of the disease in most individuals is still unknown;

Whereas, as of March 2019, there is no objective test or biomarker with which to diagnose Parkinson's disease;

Whereas there is no known cure or drug to slow or halt the progression of Parkinson's disease, and available treatments are limited in their ability to address the medical needs of patients and remain effective over time;

Whereas the symptoms of Parkinson's disease vary from person to person and may include—

(1) tremors;
(2) slowness of movement and rigidity;
(3) problems with gait and balance;
(4) disturbances in speech and swallowing;
(5) cognitive impairment and dementia;
(6) mood disorders; and
(7) a variety of other nonmotor symptoms;

Whereas volunteers, researchers, caregivers, and medical professionals are working to improve the quality of life of—

(1) individuals living with Parkinson's disease; and

(2) the families of those individuals; and

Whereas increased research, education, and community support services are needed—

(1) to find more effective treatments; and

(2) to provide access to quality care to individuals living with Parkinson's disease: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 2019 as ''Parkinson's Awareness Month'';

(2) supports the goals and ideals of Parkinson's Awareness Month;

(3) continues to support research to find better treatments and a cure for Parkinson's disease;

(4) recognizes the individuals living with Parkinson's disease who participate in vital clinical trials to advance the knowledge of the disease; and

(5) commends the dedication of the organizations, volunteers, researchers, and millions of individuals across the United States who are working to improve the quality of life of—

(A) individuals living with Parkinson's disease; and

(B) the families of those individuals.

SENATE RESOLUTION 158—AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE ATRIUM IN THE PHILIP A. HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING FOR THE NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DAY, A SEMIANNUAL EVENT OF THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. BLUNT) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 158

Resolved,

SECTION 1. USE OF THE ATRIUM IN THE HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING FOR TAKE BACK DAY.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The atrium in the Philip A. Hart Senate Office Building is authorized to be used on April 24, 2019, for the National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, a semiannual event of the Drug Enforcement Administration.

(b) PREPARATIONS.—Physical preparations for the conduct of the event described in subsection (a) shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as may be prescribed by the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I have 14 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 AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 10, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on child nutrition reauthorization.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 10, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on broadband.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 10, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the

Senate on Wednesday, April 10, 2019, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 10, 2019, at 9:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

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 Wednesday, April 10, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Indian Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 10, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 10, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Jeffrey A. Rosen, of Virginia, to be Deputy Attorney General, Department of Justice; and Jeffrey Vincent Brown, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas, Stephanie L. Haines, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, and Brantley Starr, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 10, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing on SBA's international trade programs.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 10, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled ''VA Mission Act''.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CYBERSECURITY

The Subcommittee on Cybersecurity of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 10, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SEAPOWER

The Subcommittee on Seapower of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 10, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND SAFETY

The Subcommittee on Transportation and Safety of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 10, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION

The Subcommittee on the Constitution of the Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 10, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following individuals be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the Congress: Elliot Eichen, Marisa Morin, Pamela Reed, Katherine Rudell, Jackson Shawn-Hays, Sarah Harvey, Stephanie Bell, Sarah Christ, Roberta Daghir, Mattie Wheeler, Alec Camhi, Ebony Smith, Kristen Lunde, Briana Hauss, and Rachel Swindle.

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

RELATIVE TO THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE ERNEST F. HOLLINGS, FORMER UNITED STATES SENATOR FOR THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 155, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 155) relative to the death of the Honorable Ernest F. Hollings, former United States Senator for the State of South Carolina.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. 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. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 155) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 156, S. Res. 157, and S. Res. 158.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

The resolutions (S. Res. 156 and S. Res. 157) were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

The resolution (S. Res. 158) was agreed to.

(The resolution is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR THE NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL SERVICE AND THE NATIONAL HONOR GUARD AND PIPE BAND EXHIBITION

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 16, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 16) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the measure?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion 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 concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 16) was agreed to.

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR THE GREATER WASHINGTON SOAP BOX DERBY

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 19, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 19) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the measure?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion 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 concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 19) was agreed to.

TARGET PRACTICE AND MARKSMANSHIP TRAINING SUPPORT ACT

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 18, S. 94.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 94) to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to facilitate the establishment of additional or expanded public target ranges in certain States.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to proceeding to the measure?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

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

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 94) was passed, as follows:

S. 94

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 ''Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Support Act''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the use of firearms and archery equipment for target practice and marksmanship training activities on Federal land is allowed, except to the extent specific portions of that land have been closed to those activities;

(2) in recent years preceding the date of enactment of this Act, portions of Federal land have been closed to target practice and marksmanship training for many reasons;

(3) the availability of public target ranges on non-Federal land has been declining for a variety of reasons, including continued population growth and development near former ranges;

(4) providing opportunities for target practice and marksmanship training at public target ranges on Federal and non-Federal land can help—

(A) to promote enjoyment of shooting, recreational, and hunting activities; and

(B) to ensure safe and convenient locations for those activities;

(5) Federal law in effect on the date of enactment of this Act, including the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669 et seq.), provides Federal support for construction and expansion of public target ranges by making available to States amounts that may be used for construction, operation, and maintenance of public target ranges; and

(6) it is in the public interest to provide increased Federal support to facilitate the construction or expansion of public target ranges.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to facilitate the construction and expansion of public target ranges, including ranges on Federal land managed by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

SEC. 3. DEFINITION OF PUBLIC TARGET RANGE.

In this Act, the term ''public target range'' means a specific location that—

(1) is identified by a governmental agency for recreational shooting;

(2) is open to the public;

(3) may be supervised; and

(4) may accommodate archery or rifle, pistol, or shotgun shooting.

SEC. 4. AMENDMENTS TO PITTMAN-ROBERTSON WILDLIFE RESTORATION ACT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 2 of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669a) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (8) as paragraphs (3) through (9), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

''(2) the term 'public target range' means a specific location that—

''(A) is identified by a governmental agency for recreational shooting;

''(B) is open to the public;

''(C) may be supervised; and

''(D) may accommodate archery or rifle, pistol, or shotgun shooting;''.

(b) EXPENDITURES FOR MANAGEMENT OF WILDLIFE AREAS AND RESOURCES.—Section 8(b) of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669g(b)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''(b) Each State'' and inserting the following:

''(b) EXPENDITURES FOR MANAGEMENT OF WILDLIFE AREAS AND RESOURCES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), each State'';

(2) in paragraph (1) (as so designated), by striking ''construction, operation,'' and inserting ''operation'';

(3) in the second sentence, by striking ''The non-Federal share'' and inserting the following:

''(3) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-Federal share'';

(4) in the third sentence, by striking ''The Secretary'' and inserting the following:

''(4) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary''; and

(5) by inserting after paragraph (1) (as designated by paragraph (1) of this subsection) the following:

''(2) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding the limitation described in paragraph (1), a State may pay up to 90 percent of the cost of acquiring land for, expanding, or constructing a public target range.''.

(c) FIREARM AND BOW HUNTER EDUCATION AND SAFETY PROGRAM GRANTS.—Section 10 of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669h–1) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following:

''(3) ALLOCATION OF ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS.—Of the amount apportioned to a State for any fiscal year under section 4(b), the State may elect to allocate not more than 10 percent, to be combined with the amount apportioned to the State under paragraph (1) for that fiscal year, for acquiring land for, expanding, or constructing a public target range.'';

(2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

''(b) COST SHARING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Federal share of the cost of any activity carried out using a grant under this section shall not exceed 75 percent of the total cost of the activity.

''(2) PUBLIC TARGET RANGE CONSTRUCTION OR EXPANSION.—The Federal share of the cost of acquiring land for, expanding, or constructing a public target range in a State on Federal or non-Federal land pursuant to this section or section 8(b) shall not exceed 90 percent of the cost of the activity.''; and

(3) in subsection (c)(1)—

(A) by striking ''Amounts made'' and inserting the following:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), amounts made''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) EXCEPTION.—Amounts provided for acquiring land for, constructing, or expanding a public target range shall remain available for expenditure and obligation during the 5-fiscal-year period beginning on October 1 of the first fiscal year for which the amounts are made available.''.

SEC. 5. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING COOPERATION.

It is the sense of Congress that, consistent with applicable laws and regulations, the Chief of the Forest Service and the Director of the Bureau of Land Management should cooperate with State and local authorities and other entities to carry out waste removal and other activities on any Federal land used as a public target range to encourage continued use of that land for target practice or marksmanship training.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

SUPPORTING DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES AND STANDARDS IN BOLIVIA AND THROUGHOUT LATIN AMERICA

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 58, S. Res. 35.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 35) supporting democratic principles and standards in Bolivia and throughout Latin America.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment, and with an amendment to the preamble, as follows:

Whereas the nation of Bolivia proclaimed independence from Spain on August 6, 1825, with Simón Bolívar as its president;

Whereas Bolivia endured more than a century of fragile governance and instability, with more than 150 changes of leadership since it gained independence;

Whereas Bolivia experienced a succession of military coups that resulted in the irregular transfer of power between presidents and military juntas during the period of 1964 to 1982;

Whereas a transition to civilian democracy occurred in 1982, after the ruling military junta handed over power to a civilian government, which managed to maintain control despite major economic upheavals and painful market reforms;

Whereas elected President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada and his successor Carlos Mesa both resigned in the face of destabilizing protests in 2003 and 2005, respectively;

Whereas, in 2005, Evo Morales won his first term as president, becoming Bolivia's first indigenous citizen elected to the office;

Whereas Bolivia's historically marginalized indigenous peoples represent approximately 41 percent of the country's population, according to the 2012 Bolivian census;

Whereas, in 2006, the people of Bolivia elected a constituent assembly to write a new constitution recognizing greater political and economic rights for the country's indigenous population, while key opposition parties boycotted the constituent assembly election;

Whereas, in 2008, a recall referendum on President Morales was rejected by 67 percent of voters in Bolivia;

Whereas, in 2008, amidst growing protests in the country and rising tensions between Bolivia and the United States, President Morales expelled the United States ambassador to Bolivia;

Whereas, in 2009, Bolivians approved, by a vote of more than 60 percent in a nationwide referendum, a new constitution that included a limit of two five-year presidential terms;

Whereas, in 2009, President Morales won reelection to a second term with more than 60 percent of the vote;

Whereas, in 2013, President Morales' loyalists in Bolivia's Legislative Assembly approved legislation allowing him to run for a third term—a law that President Morales' political allies in the Bolivian Constitutional Tribunal affirmed, ruling that the two-term limit in the country's new constitution did not apply because President Morales' first term was under the old constitution;

Whereas, in 2013, President Morales expelled the United States Agency for International Development for trying to ''conspire against Bolivia'';

Whereas, in 2014, President Morales won his third term as president, with 60 percent of the vote;

Whereas, in 2016, the Government of Bolivia called a national referendum to modify the constitution in order to allow for an additional term for Morales;

Whereas, that same year, more than half of voters in Bolivia rejected the proposed lifting of presidential term limits that would have allowed President Morales to run for a fourth term and serve at least 19 years in office;

Whereas, after the referendum, the Morales Administration increased its troubling rhetoric against opposition media and advanced a narrative suggesting a plot to prevent President Morales from staying in power;

Whereas, in 2017, President Morales' loyalists on the Bolivian Constitutional Tribunal lifted constitutional term limits arguing that they violated the candidates' human rights, citing the American Convention of Human Rights, adopted at San Jose November 22, 1969, the main human rights treaty in the Americas, as the legal foundation for its decision;

Whereas the Convention states that political rights can only be limited under very specific circumstances, a provision which, when drafted in 1969, was intended to prevent abusive governments from arbitrarily barring opposition candidates and not to impede constitutional reelection limits designed to reduce corruption and abuse of power given Latin America's long history of violent and prolonged dictatorship;

Whereas the Bolivian Constitutional Tribunal's ruling rendered Bolivia one of a very small number of countries in the Western Hemisphere that does not place limits on presidential reelection;

Whereas the Secretary General of the Organization of American States said the cited clause ''does not mean the right to perpetual power . . . Besides, presidential re-election was rejected by popular will in a referendum in 2016.'';

Whereas, in March 2018, a report commissioned by the Organization of American States specifically related to this issue stated that—

(1) ''There is no specific and distinct human right to re-election.'';

(2) ''Term limits. . .are a reasonable limit to the right to be elected because they prevent an unlimited exercise of power in the hands of the President.''; and

(3) ''The limits on a president's re-election do not therefore unduly restrict his/her human and political rights.''; and

Whereas the Morales era has seen many social and economic gains, but also a weakening and undermining of key democratic institutions in order to favor the ruling party: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the important transitions to democracy and the regular peaceful transfers of power through elections that have taken place in the majority of Latin American and Caribbean countries in recent decades;

(2) recognizes the historic significance of Bolivia's 2005 election;

(3) expresses concern for efforts to circumvent presidential term limits in the Bolivian constitution;

(4) supports presidential term limits prevalent in Latin America as reasonable checks against a history of coups, corruption, and abuses of power;

(5) expresses the belief that the 2016 referendum vote to maintain presidential term limits reflected the legitimate will of the majority of voters in Bolivia;

(6) agrees with the Organization of American States Secretary General's interpretation of the American Convention of Human Rights as not applicable to presidential term limits;

(7) calls on the Government of Bolivia to respect, and where necessary restore, the independence of key electoral and governing bodies and administer the October 2019 election in adherence with international democratic norms and its own constitutional limits on presidential terms; and

(8) calls on Latin American democracies to continue to uphold democratic norms and standards among members states.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I know of no further debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 35) was agreed to.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment to the preamble be agreed to, the preamble, as amended, 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 committee-reported amendment to the preamble was agreed to.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

S. RES. 35

Whereas the nation of Bolivia proclaimed independence from Spain on August 6, 1825, with Simón Bolívar as its president;

Whereas Bolivia endured more than a century of fragile governance and instability, with more than 150 changes of leadership since it gained independence;

Whereas Bolivia experienced a succession of military coups that resulted in the irregular transfer of power between presidents and military juntas during the period of 1964 to 1982;

Whereas a transition to civilian democracy occurred in 1982, after the ruling military junta handed over power to a civilian government, which managed to maintain control despite major economic upheavals and painful market reforms;

Whereas elected President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada and his successor Carlos Mesa both resigned in the face of destabilizing protests in 2003 and 2005, respectively;

Whereas, in 2005, Evo Morales won his first term as president, becoming Bolivia's first indigenous citizen elected to the office;

Whereas Bolivia's historically marginalized indigenous peoples represent approximately 41 percent of the country's population, according to the 2012 Bolivian census;

Whereas, in 2006, the people of Bolivia elected a constituent assembly to write a new constitution recognizing greater political and economic rights for the country's indigenous population, while key opposition parties boycotted the constituent assembly election;

Whereas, in 2008, a recall referendum on President Morales was rejected by 67 percent of voters in Bolivia;

Whereas, in 2008, amidst growing protests in the country and rising tensions between Bolivia and the United States, President Morales expelled the United States ambassador to Bolivia;

Whereas, in 2009, Bolivians approved, by a vote of more than 60 percent in a nationwide referendum, a new constitution that included a limit of two five-year presidential terms;

Whereas, in 2009, President Morales won reelection to a second term with more than 60 percent of the vote;

Whereas, in 2013, President Morales' loyalists in Bolivia's Legislative Assembly approved legislation allowing him to run for a third term—a law that President Morales' political allies in the Bolivian Constitutional Tribunal affirmed, ruling that the two-term limit in the country's new constitution did not apply because President Morales' first term was under the old constitution;

Whereas, in 2013, President Morales expelled the United States Agency for International Development for trying to ''conspire against Bolivia'';

Whereas, in 2014, President Morales won his third term as president, with 60 percent of the vote;

Whereas, in 2016, the Government of Bolivia called a national referendum to modify the constitution in order to allow for an additional term for Morales;

Whereas, that same year, more than half of voters in Bolivia rejected the proposed lifting of presidential term limits that would have allowed President Morales to run for a fourth term and serve at least 19 years in office;

Whereas, after the referendum, the Morales Administration increased its troubling rhetoric against opposition media and advanced a narrative suggesting a plot to prevent President Morales from staying in power;

Whereas, in 2017, President Morales' loyalists on the Bolivian Constitutional Tribunal lifted constitutional term limits arguing that they violated the candidates' human rights, citing the American Convention of Human Rights, adopted at San Jose November 22, 1969, the main human rights treaty in the Americas, as the legal foundation for its decision;

Whereas the Convention states that political rights can only be limited under very specific circumstances, a provision which, when drafted in 1969, was intended to prevent abusive governments from arbitrarily barring opposition candidates and not to impede constitutional reelection limits designed to reduce corruption and abuse of power given Latin America's long history of violent and prolonged dictatorship;

Whereas the Bolivian Constitutional Tribunal's ruling rendered Bolivia one of a very small number of countries in the Western Hemisphere that does not place limits on presidential reelection;

Whereas the Secretary General of the Organization of American States said the cited clause ''does not mean the right to perpetual power . . . Besides, presidential re-election was rejected by popular will in a referendum in 2016.'';

Whereas, in March 2018, a report commissioned by the Organization of American States specifically related to this issue stated that—

(1) ''There is no specific and distinct human right to re-election.'';

(2) ''Term limits. . .are a reasonable limit to the right to be elected because they prevent an unlimited exercise of power in the hands of the President.''; and

(3) ''The limits on a president's re-election do not therefore unduly restrict his/her human and political rights.''; and

Whereas the Morales era has seen many social and economic gains, but also a weakening and undermining of key democratic institutions in order to favor the ruling party: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the important transitions to democracy and the regular peaceful transfers of power through elections that have taken place in the majority of Latin American and Caribbean countries in recent decades;

(2) recognizes the historic significance of Bolivia's 2005 election;

(3) expresses concern for efforts to circumvent presidential term limits in the Bolivian constitution;

(4) supports presidential term limits prevalent in Latin America as reasonable checks against a history of coups, corruption, and abuses of power;

(5) expresses the belief that the 2016 referendum vote to maintain presidential term limits reflected the legitimate will of the majority of voters in Bolivia;

(6) agrees with the Organization of American States Secretary General's interpretation of the American Convention of Human Rights as not applicable to presidential term limits;

(7) calls on the Government of Bolivia to respect, and where necessary restore, the independence of key electoral and governing bodies and administer the October 2019 election in adherence with international democratic norms and its own constitutional limits on presidential terms; and

(8) calls on Latin American democracies to continue to uphold democratic norms and standards among members states.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE ON THE IMPORTANCE AND VITALITY OF THE UNITED STATES ALLIANCES WITH JAPAN AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 59, S. Res. 67.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 67) expressing the sense of the Senate on the importance and vitality of the United States alliances with Japan and the Republic of Korea, and our trilateral cooperation in the pursuit of shared interests.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment, and with an amendment to the preamble, as follows:

Whereas the governments and the people of the United States, Japan, and the Republic of Korea share comprehensive and dynamic partnerships and personal friendships rooted in shared interests and the common values of freedom, democracy, and free market economies;

Whereas the United States, Japan, and the Republic of Korea are all free societies committed to the principles of inclusive democracy, respect for human potential, and the belief that the peaceful spread of these principles will result in a safer and brighter future for all of mankind;

Whereas the United States, Japan, and the Republic of Korea are indispensable partners in tackling global challenges and have pledged significant support for efforts to counter violent extremism, combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, prevent piracy, improve global health and energy security, promote human rights, address climate change, contribute to economic development around the world, and assist the victims of conflict and disaster worldwide;

Whereas the governments and the people of the United States, Japan, and the Republic of Korea all share a commitment to free and open markets, high standards for the free flow of commerce and trade, and the establishment of an inclusive, transparent, and sustainable architecture for regional and global trade and development;

Whereas the United States-Japan and the United States-Republic of Korea alliances are the foundation of regional stability in Asia, including against the threat posed by the regime in Pyongyang;

Whereas cooperation between and among our nations spans economic, energy, diplomatic, security, and cultural spheres;

Whereas the United States and Japan established diplomatic relations on March 31, 1854, with the signing of the Treaty of Peace and Amity;

Whereas the relationship between the peoples of the United States and the Republic of Korea stretches back to Korea's Chosun Dynasty, when the United States and Korea established diplomatic relations under the 1882 Treaty of Peace, Amity, Commerce, and Navigation;

Whereas 2019 marks the 74th anniversary of the end of World War II, a conflict in which the United States and Japan were enemies, and the strength of the United States-Japan alliance is a testament to the ability of great countries to overcome the past and to work together to create a more secure and prosperous future;

Whereas the United States-Korea alliance was forged in blood, with United States military casualties during the Korean War of approximately 36,574 killed and more than 103,284 wounded, and with Republic of Korea casualties of more than 217,000 soldiers killed, more than 429,000 soldiers wounded, and 1,000,000 civilians killed or missing;

Whereas, for the past 70 years, the partnership between the United States and Japan has played a vital role, both in Asia and globally, in ensuring peace, stability, and economic development;

Whereas, approximately 54,000 United States military personnel serve in Japan, along with some of the United States most advanced defense assets, including the 7th Fleet and the USS Ronald Reagan, the only United States aircraft carrier to be homeported outside the United States;

Whereas, since the Mutual Defense Treaty Between the United States and the Republic of Korea, signed in Washington on October 1, 1953, and ratified by the Senate on January 26, 1954, United States military personnel have maintained a continuous presence on the Korean Peninsula, and approximately 28,500 United States troops are stationed in the Republic of Korea in 2019;

Whereas the United States and the Republic of Korea have stood alongside each other in the four major wars the United States has fought outside Korea since World War II—in Vietnam, the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, and Iraq;

Whereas Japan is the fourth-largest United States trading partner and together with the United States represents 30 percent of global Gross Domestic Product, and Japanese firms have invested approximately $498,000,000,000 in the United States;

Whereas, the economic relationship between the United States and its sixth-largest trading partner, the Republic of Korea, has been facilitated by the United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement (KORUS), which entered into force on March 15, 2012, and was amended as of January 1, 2019, includes 358,000 jobs in the United States that are directly related to exports to the Republic of Korea, and has resulted in approximately $51,800,000,000 in investments by Korean firms in the United States;

Whereas Japan and the Republic of Korea stand as strong partners of the United States in efforts to ensure maritime security and freedom of navigation, commerce, and overflight and to uphold respect for the rule of law and to oppose the use of coercion, intimidation, or force to change the regional or global status quo, including in the maritime domains of the Indo-Pacific, which are among the busiest waterways in the world;

Whereas the United States, Japan, and the Republic of Korea are committed to working together towards a world where the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (in this preamble referred to as the ''DPRK'') does not threaten global peace and security with its weapons of mass destruction, missile proliferation, and illicit activities, and where the DPRK respects human rights and its people can live in freedom;

Whereas section 211 of the North Korea Sanctions and Policy Enhancement Act of 2016 (22 U.S.C. 9231; Public Law 114–122) expresses the sense of Congress that the President ''should seek to strengthen high-level trilateral mechanisms for discussion and coordination of policy toward North Korea between the Government of the United States, the Government of South Korea, and the Government of Japan'';

Whereas the Asia Reassurance Initiative Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–409) underscores the importance of trilateral defense cooperation and enforcement of multilateral sanctions against North Korea and calls for regular consultation with Congress on the status of such efforts;

Whereas the United States, Japan, and the Republic of Korea have made great strides in promoting trilateral cooperation and defense partnership, including ministerial meetings, information sharing, and cooperation on ballistic missile defense exercises to counter North Korean provocations;

Whereas Japanese Americans and Korean Americans have made invaluable contributions to the security, prosperity, and diversity of our Nation, including service as our elected representatives in the Senate and in the House of Representatives; and

Whereas the United States Government looks forward to continuing to deepen our enduring partnerships with Japan and the Republic of Korea on economic, security, and cultural issues, as well as embracing new opportunities for bilateral and trilateral partnerships and cooperation on emerging regional and global challenges: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate reaffirms the importance of—

(1) the vital role of the alliances between the United States and Japan and the United States and the Republic of Korea in promoting peace, stability, and security in the Indo-Pacific region, including through United States extended deterrence, and reaffirms the commitment of the United States

to defend Japan, including all areas under the administration of Japan, under Article V of the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security Between the United States of America and Japan, and to defend the Republic of Korea under Article III of the Mutual Defense Treaty Between the United States and the Republic of Korea;

(2) a constructive and forward-looking relationship between Japan and the Republic of Korea for United States diplomatic, economic, and security interests and for open and inclusive architecture to support the development of a secure, stable, and prosperous Indo-Pacific region;

(3) strengthening and broadening diplomatic, economic, security, and people-to-people ties between and among the United States, Japan, and the Republic of Korea;

(4) developing and implementing a strategy to deepen the trilateral diplomatic and security cooperation between the United States, Japan, and the Republic of Korea, including through diplomatic engagement, regional development, energy security, scientific and health partnerships, educational and cultural exchanges, missile defense, intelligence-sharing, space, cyber, and other diplomatic and defense-related initiatives;

(5) trilateral cooperation with members of the United Nations Security Council and other Member States to fully and effectively enforce sanctions against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (in this resolution referred to as the ''DPRK'') and evaluate additional and meaningful new measures toward the DPRK under Article 41 of the United Nations Charter;

(6) trilateral cooperation to support and uphold a rules-based trade and economic order in the Indo-Pacific region, including the empowerment of women, which is vital for the prosperity of all our nations;

(7) supporting the expansion of academic and cultural exchanges among the three nations, especially efforts to encourage Japanese and Korean students to study at universities in the United States, and vice versa, to deepen people-to-people ties; and

(8) continued cooperation among the governments of the United States, Japan, and the Republic of Korea to promote human rights.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I know of no further debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 67) was agreed to.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I further ask that the committee-reported amendment to the preamble be agreed to, the preamble, as amended, 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 committee-reported amendment to the preamble was agreed to.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

S. RES. 67

Whereas the governments and the people of the United States, Japan, and the Republic of Korea share comprehensive and dynamic partnerships and personal friendships rooted in shared interests and the common values of freedom, democracy, and free market economies;

Whereas the United States, Japan, and the Republic of Korea are all free societies committed to the principles of inclusive democracy, respect for human potential, and the belief that the peaceful spread of these principles will result in a safer and brighter future for all of mankind;

Whereas the United States, Japan, and the Republic of Korea are indispensable partners in tackling global challenges and have pledged significant support for efforts to counter violent extremism, combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, prevent piracy, improve global health and energy security, promote human rights, address climate change, contribute to economic development around the world, and assist the victims of conflict and disaster worldwide;

Whereas the governments and the people of the United States, Japan, and the Republic of Korea all share a commitment to free and open markets, high standards for the free flow of commerce and trade, and the establishment of an inclusive, transparent, and sustainable architecture for regional and global trade and development;

Whereas the United States-Japan and the United States-Republic of Korea alliances are the foundation of regional stability in Asia, including against the threat posed by the regime in Pyongyang;

Whereas cooperation between and among our nations spans economic, energy, diplomatic, security, and cultural spheres;

Whereas the United States and Japan established diplomatic relations on March 31, 1854, with the signing of the Treaty of Peace and Amity;

Whereas the relationship between the peoples of the United States and the Republic of Korea stretches back to Korea's Chosun Dynasty, when the United States and Korea established diplomatic relations under the 1882 Treaty of Peace, Amity, Commerce, and Navigation;

Whereas 2019 marks the 74th anniversary of the end of World War II, a conflict in which the United States and Japan were enemies, and the strength of the United States-Japan alliance is a testament to the ability of great countries to overcome the past and to work together to create a more secure and prosperous future;

Whereas the United States-Korea alliance was forged in blood, with United States military casualties during the Korean War of approximately 36,574 killed and more than 103,284 wounded, and with Republic of Korea casualties of more than 217,000 soldiers killed, more than 429,000 soldiers wounded, and 1,000,000 civilians killed or missing;

Whereas, for the past 70 years, the partnership between the United States and Japan has played a vital role, both in Asia and globally, in ensuring peace, stability, and economic development;

Whereas, approximately 54,000 United States military personnel serve in Japan, along with some of the United States most advanced defense assets, including the 7th Fleet and the USS Ronald Reagan, the only United States aircraft carrier to be homeported outside the United States;

Whereas, since the Mutual Defense Treaty Between the United States and the Republic of Korea, signed in Washington on October 1, 1953, and ratified by the Senate on January 26, 1954, United States military personnel have maintained a continuous presence on the Korean Peninsula, and approximately 28,500 United States troops are stationed in the Republic of Korea in 2019;

Whereas the United States and the Republic of Korea have stood alongside each other in the four major wars the United States has fought outside Korea since World War II—in Vietnam, the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, and Iraq;

Whereas Japan is the fourth-largest United States trading partner and together with the United States represents 30 percent of global Gross Domestic Product, and Japanese firms have invested approximately $498,000,000,000 in the United States;

Whereas, the economic relationship between the United States and its sixth-largest trading partner, the Republic of Korea, has been facilitated by the United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement (KORUS), which entered into force on March 15, 2012, and was amended as of January 1, 2019, includes 358,000 jobs in the United States that are directly related to exports to the Republic of Korea, and has resulted in approximately $51,800,000,000 in investments by Korean firms in the United States;

Whereas Japan and the Republic of Korea stand as strong partners of the United States in efforts to ensure maritime security and freedom of navigation, commerce, and overflight and to uphold respect for the rule of law and to oppose the use of coercion, intimidation, or force to change the regional or global status quo, including in the maritime domains of the Indo-Pacific, which are among the busiest waterways in the world;

Whereas the United States, Japan, and the Republic of Korea are committed to working together towards a world where the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (in this preamble referred to as the ''DPRK'') does not threaten global peace and security with its weapons of mass destruction, missile proliferation, and illicit activities, and where the DPRK respects human rights and its people can live in freedom;

Whereas section 211 of the North Korea Sanctions and Policy Enhancement Act of 2016 (22 U.S.C. 9231; Public Law 114–122) expresses the sense of Congress that the President ''should seek to strengthen high-level trilateral mechanisms for discussion and coordination of policy toward North Korea between the Government of the United States, the Government of South Korea, and the Government of Japan'';

Whereas the Asia Reassurance Initiative Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–409) underscores the importance of trilateral defense cooperation and enforcement of multilateral sanctions against North Korea and calls for regular consultation with Congress on the status of such efforts;

Whereas the United States, Japan, and the Republic of Korea have made great strides in promoting trilateral cooperation and defense partnership, including ministerial meetings, information sharing, and cooperation on ballistic missile defense exercises to counter North Korean provocations;

Whereas Japanese Americans and Korean Americans have made invaluable contributions to the security, prosperity, and diversity of our Nation, including service as our elected representatives in the Senate and in the House of Representatives; and

Whereas the United States Government looks forward to continuing to deepen our enduring partnerships with Japan and the Republic of Korea on economic, security, and cultural issues, as well as embracing new opportunities for bilateral and trilateral partnerships and cooperation on emerging regional and global challenges: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate reaffirms the importance of—

(1) the vital role of the alliances between the United States and Japan and the United States and the Republic of Korea in promoting peace, stability, and security in the Indo-Pacific region, including through United States extended deterrence, and reaffirms the commitment of the United States

to defend Japan, including all areas under the administration of Japan, under Article V of the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security Between the United States of America and Japan, and to defend the Republic of Korea under Article III of the Mutual Defense Treaty Between the United States and the Republic of Korea;

(2) a constructive and forward-looking relationship between Japan and the Republic of Korea for United States diplomatic, economic, and security interests and for open and inclusive architecture to support the development of a secure, stable, and prosperous Indo-Pacific region;

(3) strengthening and broadening diplomatic, economic, security, and people-to-people ties between and among the United States, Japan, and the Republic of Korea;

(4) developing and implementing a strategy to deepen the trilateral diplomatic and security cooperation between the United States, Japan, and the Republic of Korea, including through diplomatic engagement, regional development, energy security, scientific and health partnerships, educational and cultural exchanges, missile defense, intelligence-sharing, space, cyber, and other diplomatic and defense-related initiatives;

(5) trilateral cooperation with members of the United Nations Security Council and other Member States to fully and effectively enforce sanctions against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (in this resolution referred to as the ''DPRK'') and evaluate additional and meaningful new measures toward the DPRK under Article 41 of the United Nations Charter;

(6) trilateral cooperation to support and uphold a rules-based trade and economic order in the Indo-Pacific region, including the empowerment of women, which is vital for the prosperity of all our nations;

(7) supporting the expansion of academic and cultural exchanges among the three nations, especially efforts to encourage Japanese and Korean students to study at universities in the United States, and vice versa, to deepen people-to-people ties; and

(8) continued cooperation among the governments of the United States, Japan, and the Republic of Korea to promote human rights.

RECOGNIZING THE 198TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF GREECE AND CELEBRATING DEMOCRACY IN GREECE AND THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 60, S. Res. 95.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. Res. 95) recognizing the 198th anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating democracy in Greece and the United States

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I further 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. 95) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of March 5, 2019, under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2019

The PRESIDING OFFICER. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Thursday, April 11; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Bernhardt nomination; finally, that all time during recess, adjournment, morning business, and leader remarks count postcloture on the Bernhardt nomination.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator HIRONO, and under the provisions of S. Res. 155, and do so as a further mark of respect for the late Fritz Hollings, former Senator from South Carolina.

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

The Senator from Hawaii.

NOMINATION OF DAVID BERNHARDT

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, time and again over the past 2 years, we have seen a clear pattern in the types of people Donald Trump nominates to serve in his Cabinet.

They have extensive conflicts of interest. If confirmed, they work to advance the interest of former clients and special interests, and in doing so, they are often hostile to the very mission of the very Department they have been nominated to lead.

We have seen this time and again with the same disastrous results—from Scott Pruitt at the Environmental Protection Agency and Ryan Zinke at the Department of Interior to Andy Puzder at the Department of Labor and Tom Price at Health and Human Services.

Today, the majority leader and Senate Republicans are forcing through the nomination of David Bernhardt to serve as Secretary of the Interior—another person who fits Trump's pattern for conflicted, unethical Cabinet nominees.

Bernhardt brings so many conflicts of interest to the job that he has to carry a list around in his pocket to remind himself of what they are. I am putting up this graphic poster that shows a card he carries around in his pocket to remind himself of the people he is not supposed to be interacting with or helping.

In normal times, a President would not nominate someone with David Bernhardt's background as a superlobbyist who represented interests before the Department he was nominated to lead. In normal times, the majority party would push back against a nominee who brings so many obvious conflicts of interest to the job. But these are not normal times, and the Senate is moving in an all-fired rush to confirm someone who shouldn't have been nominated in the first place.

During his tenure as Deputy Secretary of the Interior, Mr. Bernhardt was well-placed to deliver results for the special interests who paid his firm millions of dollars to lobby on their behalf over the past decade.

Mr. Bernhardt, for example, spent years lobbying on behalf of an organization with a misleading name—the Center for Environmental Science, Accuracy & Reliability, or CESAR. Far from being a nonpartisan group, CESAR is an industry front group dedicated to, among other things, attacking and weakening the Endangered Species Act, the ESA.

As a lobbyist at Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, Bernhardt spearheaded CESAR's efforts to gut the ESA through a disingenuous shell campaign to list the American eel as a threatened or endangered species.

Here is what they did. First, CESAR petitioned the Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service to designate the American eel—a species whose habitat spans the entire east coast of the United States—as a threatened or endangered species. These Agencies are required to complete their review of such a position within 90 days. Both Agencies were unable to complete their review on such a short timeline, and CESAR filed a lawsuit in DC District Court.

CESAR did not undertake this campaign with the objective of protecting a threatened or endangered species. Instead, as an E&E News report made clear, CESAR tried to undermine the law by making it nearly impossible to enforce.

Why was this the case? Because the American eel has habitat all along the eastern seaboard and to make a listing and to conduct critical habitat designations would be a paralyzing undertaking that might force Congress to undergo a rewrite of the ESA.

Mr. Bernhardt did not just represent CESAR, but he has also served on their board for many years. It was reasonable to conclude, therefore, that his sustained personal advocacy on behalf of his client to undermine the ESA would carry over to his work at the Department of the Interior, and, indeed, it has.

Last summer, the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Fish and

Wildlife Service proposed some of the most drastic changes to the ESA in 30 years. These changes include allowing economic estimates during the listing process, changing the definition of ''foreseeable future'' to not allow for the consideration of climate change when determining whether to list a species and removing a blanket rule that protects threatened species.

It certainly doesn't seem like a coincidence that the Department is considering such radical changes to the ESA under the leadership of Mr. Bernhardt—someone who was paid by his clients to challenge it.

Over the past few weeks, we have also learned from reporting in the New York Times about Mr. Bernhardt's efforts to suppress a Fish and Wildlife Service report on the impacts of certain pesticides on endangered species. This report was due to be released more than 1½ years ago, and despite documents indicating that the Department had completed the report on time, it has yet to be released.

Last week, I, along with several of my colleagues, sent a letter to the Department's deputy inspector general, requesting that she open an investigation into these allegations. Based on Mr. Bernhardt's industry priorities and past attempts to weaken the ESA, I think it is prudent that we get to the bottom of what is going on at the Department before confirming him.

If the Department of the Interior's mission is to ''provide scientific and other information about natural resources,'' then isn't it Mr. Bernhardt's job to ensure that scientific reports on the impacts of chemicals on endangered species are released in a timely manner, especially knowing that these species are threatened or endangered? Yet this report has been kept back for over 1 year.

Unfortunately, I don't think he considers that a priority of his job. Instead, he seems to prioritize moving the levers within the Department that he was unsuccessful in moving while representing his clients as a lobbyist.

This pattern of activity also extends to his former clients in the oil and gas industry. During the government shutdown, for example, Mr. Bernhardt recalled furloughed DOI employees in order to have them process and approve 267 offshore oil drilling permits and 16 leases for drilling on public land. His decisive action on behalf of oil and gas interests came as thousands of employees went without pay and critical Federal services were shuttered for over 1 month.

Is it really any wonder that executives from the Independent Petroleum Association of America were caught on tape bragging about the unprecedented access they have to Mr. Bernhardt at the Department?

The American people deserve an Interior Secretary devoted to the mission of the Department, not the narrow special interests of his former lobbyist clients.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this nomination and await the IG report before voting on this nomination.

One would hope that with all of these conflicts he has to carry around in his pocket, surely we can come up with someone to lead this Department who actually has the mission of the Department as his calling. That is not the case with Mr. Bernhardt.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order and pursuant to S. Res. 155, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. on Thursday, April 11, and does so as a further mark of respect for Ernest ''Fritz'' Hollings, former Senator from South Carolina.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:14 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, April 11, 2019, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

KATE MARIE BYRNES, OF FLORIDA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be general

LT. GEN. ARNOLD W. BUNCH, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. DAVID A. HARRIS, JR.

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS AND APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 8033:

To be admiral

ADM. WILLIAM F. MORAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS VICE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS AND APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 8035:

To be admiral

VICE ADM. ROBERT P. BURKE

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. HERMAN S. CLARDY III

FOREIGN SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED MEMBER OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE TO BE A SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

LISA ANNE RIGOLI, OF FLORIDA

THE FOLLOWING–NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR PROMOTION WITHIN THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER:

JENNIFER M. ADAMS, OF VIRGINIA
JEFFREY N. BAKKEN, OF MINNESOTA
SUSAN F. FINE, OF VIRGINIA
SUSAN KOSINSKI FRITZ, OF WASHINGTON
LAWRENCE HARDY II, OF WASHINGTON
SARAH–ANN LYNCH, OF MARYLAND

THE FOLLOWING–NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR PROMOTION WITHIN THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR:

DERRICK SCOTT BROWN, OF FLORIDA
MICHAEL JOSEPH GREENE, OF MARYLAND
GARY C. JUSTE, OF VIRGINIA
MARK A. MEASSICK, OF FLORIDA
ELIZABETH B. WARFIELD, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
CLINTON D. WHITE, OF MARYLAND

THE FOLLOWING–NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE FOR PROMOTION INTO THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR:

KAYA D. ADAMS, OF LOUISIANA
MAURA E. BARRY BOYLE, OF MARYLAND
IDRIS M. DIAZ, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
BETH PENNOCK DUNFORD, OF MARYLAND
NATALIE J. FREEMAN, OF VIRGINIA
JONATHAN T. KAMIN, OF MARYLAND
LESLIE C. MARBURY, OF FLORIDA
MICHAEL RICHARD MCCORD, OF CALIFORNIA
MIKAELA SAWTELLE MEREDITH, OF VIRGINIA
V. KATE SOMVONGSIRI, OF VIRGINIA

THE FOLLOWING–NAMED MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO BE A FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER, A CONSULAR OFFICER, AND A SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

TIMOTHY RYAN HARRISON, OF CALIFORNIA
ELIZABETH VIVIAN LEONARDI, OF CALIFORNIA
LAZARO SANDOVAL, OF CALIFORNIA
J. BRET TATE, OF TEXAS
RACHEL LYNNE VANDERBERG, OF VIRGINIA

THE FOLLOWING–NAMED CAREER MEMBER OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR GLOBAL MEDIA, BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS, FOR PROMOTION INTO THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE TO THE CLASS INDICATED:

CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, AND A CONSULAR OFFICER AND A SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

WILLIAM S. MARTIN, OF CALIFORNIA

THE FOLLOWING–NAMED CAREER MEMBER OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL, FOR PROMOTION WITHIN THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR:

CHRISTINE BYRNE, OF VIRGINIA

THE FOLLOWING–NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE FOR PROMOTION INTO THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, AS A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CLASS OF COUNSELOR:

ROBERT MASON, OF VIRGINIA

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate April 10, 2019:

THE JUDICIARY

DAVID STEVEN MORALES, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS.

HOLLY A. BRADY, OF INDIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

CHERYL MARIE STANTON, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JOHN P. ABIZAID, OF NEVADA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA.

WITHDRAWAL

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on April 10, 2019 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nomination:

KATE MARIE BYRNES, OF FLORIDA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER–COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JANUARY 16, 2019.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

GET ADDITIVES OUT ACT

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of the Get Additives Out Act. This legislation would require a GAO report on the physical and behavioral health risks of food additives on children.

As a mom of two boys, I am committed to ensuring more transparency in the foods that we eat. The effects of food additives, both in food products and in the packaging that touches food products, are dramatically under studied, particularly the impact on children as they enter critical stages of development.

I urge my colleagues to join me in calling for more accountability on the foods that we consume and that we feed to our children. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Get Additives Out Act.

RECOGNIZING CHRIS McGUIGAN OF PLAINS

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Chris McGuigan of Plains whose work with the Sanders County Fair and Rodeo has attracted the world's top professional competitors.

After years of volunteering at the fair, Chris began serving on the Sanders County Fair Board in 2001 and became its chairman a decade later. In 2017, Chris was appointed fair manager, a position from which he recently stepped down. Over the years, he estimates he has volunteered at least 1,000 hours to help make the fair and rodeo a success.

A retired Sanders County sheriff's deputy with 25 years of service, Chris helped lead many improvements to the fairgrounds, including upgrading the livestock facilities, improving the rodeo surface, constructing a 4-H horse arena and crow's nest, and making the arena ADA accessible.

The vision and accomplishments of the Sanders County Fair Board under Chris's leadership have brought the fair and rodeo wide acclaim for its excellence. In fact, the Women's Professional Rodeo Association seven times recognized the rodeo arena surface as having the best footing in the region.

''Hands down, the Sanders County Rodeo is one of the top-notch rodeos in Montana, and Chris has been the right-hand man there for years,'' said Lori Franzen, co-owner of Powder River Rodeo, which produces the rodeo in Plains as well as 90 professional rodeo events across the country. ''Last year in the bull riding event alone, 10 of the top 15 cowboys in the professional circuit were competing in Plains.''

Madam Speaker, for his more than two decades of service and outstanding dedication to improving the Sanders County Fair and Rodeo, I recognize Chris McGuigan for his spirit of Montana.

THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION ACT OF 1989

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, thirty years ago today, on April 10, 1989, one of the most critically important federal ethics laws in our history, the Whistleblower Protection Act (WPA), was enacted. As we mark the anniversary of the WPA, I would like to give special recognition to this federal statute that has empowered Congressional oversight and assisted our work over the years.

The WPA protects whistleblowers who work for the federal government from retaliation for reporting activity constituting a violation of law, rules, or regulations, or mismanagement, fraud, waste, and abuse, or substantial danger to public health and safety. A federal agency violates the WPA if it takes or threatens to take a retaliatory personnel action against an employee who makes a protected disclosure.

On this 30th anniversary of the WPA, we honor the contributions of the brave men and women who report wrongdoing despite great risks to their careers and personal lives as a result of retaliation.

Without the WPA, very few whistleblowers would be willing to come forward. Congress relies on the WPA to fulfill its Constitutional duty to provide checks and balances on the Executive Branch—the very root of our democracy. This past February, my Committee issued an interim staff report raising serious concerns about White House efforts to rush the transfer of highly sensitive U.S. nuclear technology to Saudi Arabia in potential violation of the Atomic Energy Act and without Congressional review as required by law. The Committee's investigation was based on information that we received from multiple whistleblowers.

We also rely on the WPA to help safeguard our national security. Recently, a whistleblower working inside the White House Security Office was interviewed by the Committee about the dysfunctions in the White House that presented dangers to national security. This whistleblower ''informed the Committee that during the Trump Administration, she and other career officials adjudicated denials of dozens of applications for security clearances that were later overturned.'' She explained the reason she came forward, stating: ''I would not be doing a service to myself, my country, or my children if I sat back knowing that the issues that we have could impact national security.''

My Committee would not have been able to conduct these oversight investigations without these whistleblowers, and these whistleblowers would not have come forward if they did not have the protections of the WPA.

We have made significant progress in protecting public servants who shine a light on corruption in the federal government, but we are not satisfied with the status quo. Congress must continue to ensure that agencies are following the existing law and also identify ways to improve the law to better serve the needs of our country.

HONORING DAN HAIFLEY

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Dan Haifley for his decades of service to the Santa Cruz community as the Executive Director of O'Neill Sea Odyssey, and to congratulate him on his retirement. Mr. Haifley has been at the helm of O'Neill Sea Odyssey, a cornerstone of the Santa Cruz community and maritime education, since 1999. Through his years of dedication to environmental education and our environment, Mr. Haifley made an immeasurable impact on our community on the central coast of California.

During his tenure of twenty years with O'Neill Sea Odyssey, the organization grew into a pillar of the Santa Cruz community as it offered free oceanography and ecology programs for grade school children, often from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Mr. Haifley also championed the integration of oceanography into formal educational institutions, making the subject matter accessible to youth of diverse backgrounds.

Under Mr. Haifley's direction, over one hundred thousand children had the opportunity to receive hands on marine biology, ecology, and navigation lessons aboard Team O'Neill's 'Catamaran' yacht. Mr. Haifley's leadership was intrinsic to the extraordinary performance of O'Neill Sea Odyssey, which has received numerous awards and recognition on multiple occasions for outstanding environmental leadership and education.

Mr. Haifley's conservation efforts did not begin with O'Neill, but rather span throughout his career. He was also the executive director of Save Our Shores, where he played a vital role in the creation of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. In addition, he led a successful campaign against offshore oil drilling throughout California and actively writes columns about the importance of our oceans.

Mr. Dan Haifley exemplifies what it means to be a conscientious and engaged citizen of the Central Coast. Mr. Haifley influenced generations of citizens to cherish and preserve the environment and through them he leaves a legacy of respect and admiration for our planet. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to

stand here today in recognition of Mr. Dan Haifley's accomplished career. I have no doubt that he will continue serving his community and giving a voice to our oceans.

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL 4–H COUNCIL'S 2019 YOUTH IN ACTION AWARD RECIPIENT

HON. JAMIE RASKIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important work of the National 4–H Council, our country's largest youth development organization, as well as Clyde Van Dyke, the national winner of the 2019 4–H Youth in Action Award. Clyde, who also won the 4–H Youth in Action STEM Pillar Award, was honored at the National 4–H Council's Legacy Awards in Washington, D.C., and is being awarded $10,000 in scholarships for higher education.

The 4–H Youth in Action Award recognizes Clyde for his resilience and commitment to using technology to spark community change. Clyde faced many challenges during his childhood, including the loss of his mother at a young age. He was further discouraged in elementary school when he was told that most kids with his background "wouldn't succeed." These feelings of defeat led him to put forth little effort in school. Everything changed for Clyde when a friend invited him to a 4–H technology club meeting. Not only did the 4–H program provide Clyde with access and exposure to technology, it also helped him develop important life skills that altered his perspective and boosted his drive to succeed.

4–H empowers nearly 6 million young people like Clyde across the United States through experiences that develop critical life and career skills. Through a network of 110 public universities and more than 3,000 local extension offices, 4–H serves every county and parish in the United States. Globally, 4–H collaborates with independent programs to empower approximately 1 million young people in 50 countries. Young people who take part in the research-backed 4–H experience are four times more likely as their peers to contribute to their communities; twice as likely to make healthier life choices; twice as likely to be civically active; and twice as likely to participate in STEM programs.

I commend 4–H for its ongoing work to educate and engage our young people and I salute Clyde Van Dyke for his exemplary perseverance, civic engagement, and ingenuity.

CONGRESSIONAL TEACHERS AWARDS, FL 16

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Mr. BUCHANAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of outstanding public school teachers in Florida's 16th Congressional District.

I was once told that children are 25 percent of the population, but they are 100 percent of the future. And it's true. The education of a child is an investment, not only in that student, but in the future of our country.

Therefore, I established the Congressional Teacher Awards to honor educators for their ability to teach and inspire students.

An independent panel has chosen the following teachers from Manatee and Sarasota counties for Florida's 16th District 2019 Congressional Teacher Award for their accomplishments as educators: Marissa Dobbert for her accomplishments as a 7th Grade Math Teacher at Sarasota Military Academy Prep; Elizabeth Harris for her accomplishments as a 3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade Interventionist at Myakka City Elementary School; Chris King for his accomplishments as a 6th-9th Grade Special Education Teacher at Haile Middle School; Kate Kramer for her accomplishments as an Exceptional Student Education Liaison for PK and Autism at Fruitville Elementary School; Kari McMillan for her accomplishments as a Math Teacher at Palmetto High School; Ashlee Middleton for her accomplishments as an 11th and 12th Grade English and Reading Teacher at Sarasota High School; Nancy Miller for her accomplishments as a 3rd Grade Teacher at Ballard Elementary School; Kymberli Rivers for her accomplishments as a Literature and English Teacher at Manatee High School; Maria Underhill for her accomplishments as an 8th Grade Reading Teacher at Braden River Middle School.

On behalf of the people of Florida's 16th District, I congratulate each of these outstanding teachers and offer my sincere appreciation for their service and dedication.

HONORING THE BELLWOOD-ANTIS GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM ON THEIR PIAA CLASS 2A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Mr. JOYCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Bellwood-Antis High School girls' basketball team who secured their second consecutive PIAA Class 2A state championship with a 66–57 victory over West Middlesex.

The Lady Blue Devils started the game down 0–7, but with the help of Alli Campbell's game high 24 points which included four of the team's extraordinary twelve three-points, they were able to come out on top.

Winning one state championship is no easy task, and winning back-to-back titles is an even more impressive fete. I am incredibly proud of these girls.

Please join me in congratulating the Lady Blue Devils.

RECOGNIZING JEAN BYE

HON. JIM HAGEDORN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Mr. HAGEDORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jean Bye, President and CEO of Dotson Iron Castings in Mankato, Minnesota. Jean began her career with Dotson Iron Castings in the 1970s. With her strong work ethic, commitment to excellence and keen technical knowledge, she advanced in her career and held various management positions. In 2010, she became Dotson's President/CEO; the first woman and non-family member to run this century old manufacturer. Today, over 100 tons of ductile iron castings are melted daily, with 1,500 different metal castings produced for over 150 customers across the world.

In April, Jean was presented with The Manufacturing Institute's Science, Technology, Engineering and Production (STEP) Ahead Award, which recognizes women who have demonstrated excellence and leadership in their careers and serve as role models in inspiring young women to pursue careers in manufacturing.

Jean is known within the metalcasting industry. Since 2011, she has served on the Board of Directors of the American Foundry Society (AFS), the industry's trade association and will be concluding her successful term as AFS President at the end of April. She became the first woman in the association's over 100-year history to be chosen by her peers to serve in this role.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Jean Bye on receiving the 2019 STEP Ahead Award and completing her term leading the metalcasting industry trade association. I wish her continued success.

IN HONOR OF KARL B. McMILLEN

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Karl B. McMillen, a Marine, a successful business owner and entrepreneur, and a generous philanthropist. Karl's life can be broken down into 3 distinct parts. The first part was to study hard and get educated. Then came working hard and building a successful business; and now he's giving back.

Karl McMillen was born September 19, 1928, in Miami, Arizona. In 1929, when Karl was just a year old, his family moved to California, seeking relief from the Great Depression. In the years that followed, Karl's father Mac instilled a strong work ethic in his son—through his childhood and teen years, Karl helped Mac with odd jobs, mining and other pursuits.

After graduating from Pasadena Junior College in 1946, Karl joined the Marine Corps. After two years with the Marines he left the service and began work at a plumbing company to earn some money. Seeking to advance his education, in the Fall of 1949, Karl enrolled at the University of New Mexico (UNM). One summer, during a break back home to Pasadena, he met a young woman named Thelma Mastraight. After a 3 month courtship Karl knew that Thelma was the woman for him, and they married in the fall of 1950. From there, the married couple went back and forth from Southern California and New Mexico for Karl to continue his education at UNM. During breaks, both worked hard to earn a decent living.

Over the next couple years, Karl became a water-softening wizard and started a small

business with his fraternity brother installing lawn sprinklers. He eventually transferred to the University of Southern California (USC) for his junior year in 1952, where he gained the necessary tools to run his plumbing business with the mentality of a businessman. Karl graduated from USC in 1954 with a B.S. in Finance. From there, he worked at Kohler and then created Cobabe Plumbing. By 1964, the company employed 150 journeymen, operated a fleet of 76 trucks, and was performing 7,000 jobs a year in Southern California.

In 1968, Karl started a new plumbing supply business with his friend Ralph Todd called Todd Pipe & Supply. Their winning theory was simple: treat your customers as people. This golden touch playbook led to the small company in Hawthorne, California growing to nine highly-respected facilities in California and Nevada, including San Diego. Karl's success as a businessowner was the result of hard work, honesty, integrity, and respect for others. Karl served as Co-Founder and Chairman of the company before he sold it in 2004. It still successfully operates in Los Angeles, Riverside, Orange, and San Diego Counties.

Karl's amazing story of business success is counterbalanced by the emotional deaths of his first wife to alcohol and cancer, and both his sons who lost both of their lives to substance abuse. Karl, too, has struggled with alcoholism and proudly has over 20 years sobriety today.

When Karl retired from the plumbing industry, he knew he was not done making an impact. Karl's golden touch playbook continued and his persistency to help others made an even greater turn. More determined than ever in his war against addiction, Karl established the Thelma McMillen Center for Alcohol and Drug Treatment, named in memory of his late wife, at Torrance Memorial Medical Center. His gift to the hospital greatly expanded their existing program, including the creation of a teen outpatient program, which was important to him after what happened to his sons.

Karl and his new wife Carol also started the McMillen Family Foundation. The foundation made an immediate impact in the Southern California community and the fight against substance abuse. To date the foundation has helped over 60 organizations and has donated millions of dollars. Organizations that have benefited include the Thelma McMillen Center at Torrance Memorial Medical Center, the House of Hope, Pathways to Independence, the Friendly House, the Beacon House, 1st Step, Lynn House, the Shawl House and 2 Alano Clubs.

Karl has seen to it the foundation will go on in perpetuity, by giving 20 percent of all profits from his existing business as well as all his current assets to the foundation upon his death.

Karl's persistency to help his family, employees, customers, and those in need highlight his courage and dedication in changing lives for the better. Karl is no regular guy. He's a champion of Southern California and who we are as Californians.

HONORING AMERICAN LEGION NEW JERSEY COMMANDER RAY MILLER

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, Raymond A. Miller, of Ocean County, N.J. is a dedicated, decorated American hero who has served our country in wartime and peace.

Ray donned the uniform first as a member of the U.S. Air Force to serve and protect his country. After success in the military, Ray put on a different uniform that was no less important—serving and protecting the citizens of New Jersey during a long and distinguished career in law enforcement, all-the-while and even to this very day, never forgetting his fellow veterans.

Born in Jersey City and raised in Trenton, N.J., Ray went on to join the Air Force in 1963, completing both basic training and Air Police School as part of four years of active duty in Germany, as well as two years in the reserves. He entered the State Police Academy in 1969, and after 30 years as a New Jersey State Trooper, he retired as a lieutenant. Ray continues to work for the NJ State Police as a part-time background investigator of applicants to law enforcement.

Ray married his loving wife Laurinda in 1971, and together they raised two wonderful daughters, Kimberley and Natalie in Manchester Township, N.J. in my district. Laurinda has served the Unit 129 Auxiliary for 28 years and is the current president of the Ocean County American Legion Auxiliary. Ray and Laurinda have four grandchildren: Kailee Lynn, Kyle, MacKenzie and Brooke. Today Ray and Laurinda live in Island Heights, Ocean County, N.J.

As a trooper Ray was decorated for valor twice: first for helping apprehend a murderer who killed two police officers and permanently maimed another in Mount Holly, N.J., and later for selflessly and courageously saving a Westfield police officer who was being assaulted by two escaped murderers.

A dedicated Airman and trooper, Ray's service was complemented by his tireless efforts to aid his fellow veterans—the core of the mission of the American Legion.

I have known Ray Miller for a long time. He is a friend. One of our many, many meetings was last year at the New Jersey American Legion's Centennial Gala in Point Pleasant, N.J., where we kicked off the celebration of the successful and awesome history of the Legion.

This coming September 16, 2019 will mark the 100th anniversary since Congress passed the Charter for the American Legion.

It has been a good 100 years for the Legion, and Ray has the honor of leading legionnaires in the State of New Jersey during this special century anniversary.

Since its founding, the American Legion has become the largest wartime veterans' organization, counting nearly two million members across the U.S.A. with more than 12,000 posts. Established by an act of Congress, the Legion—with leaders like Ray and his predecessors at the helm locally, statewide and nationally—was instrumental in getting the original GI Bill through Congress and the creation of the Department of Veterans Affairs, today known as the Veterans Administration.

A nonpartisan, not-for-profit organization with legendary leadership and strong organizational structure built on its grass-roots involvement in the legislative process, every member in the House and Senate seeks the advice of the American Legion, which always, always has the interest of veterans and their families at heart.

As the former chairman of the House Veterans' Committee, I can attest to the influence, commitment and hard work of the American Legion. Its leaders like Ray Miller were indispensable when I wrote such laws as the Homeless Veterans Comprehensive Assistance Act (P.L. 107–95), and the Veterans Education and Benefits Expansion Act (P.L. 107–103)—i.e. the GI Bill expansion—just to name a few.

Before taking the reins of the American Legion Department of New Jersey last year as the State Commander, Ray served various positions at his hometown post, Post 129 in Island Heights, including twice as Post Commander.

Last year, the American Legion began celebrating 100 years since it first gathered on the Jersey Shore so many years ago. Representatives from chapters all across the state have held the American Legion Convention at Wildwoods Convention Center since 1918.

To honor the upcoming centennial milestone, local and state legionnaires buried a time capsule in Wildwood, NJ in front of American Legion Post 184 last June. Since 1918, the American Legion has held its annual convention in Wildwood.

The Cape May County Herald reported the capsule, filled with 100 years of historical items from different posts and counties within the Garden State, will remain buried for 25 years. On June 8, 2043, it will be unearthed by Ray's grandchildren.

Across my District, across the great State of New Jersey, and across this great nation, the traditions and legacy of the Legion have become a legacy of wholesome Americana: American Legion baseball, Boys State, Troop and Family Support, educational scholarships, and many other activities sponsored by the Legion.

This Saturday, his fellow veterans, friends and family, will honor Ray for a lifetime of service that continues today. And, 25 years from now, Ray's grandchildren will unearth the memories and history of the New Jersey American Legion—a history that is replete with the outstanding contributions and leadership of American Legionnaire Ray Miller.

I thank Ray, and may God bless him and his family and all servicemember and veterans.

RELEASE OF SECOND DAY OF JAMES BAKER TRANSCRIPT

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I have released several transcripts of interviews from the Judiciary Committee's investigation into the apparent wrongdoing at the FBI and Justice Department. Today, I am releasing another.

The American people deserve transparency. They deserve to know what transpired in the

highest levels of the FBI at the origin of the probe of President Trump's campaign.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD the link, *www.dougcollins.house.gov/jamesbaker,* so the American people can review the transcript of day two of James Baker's interview.

Out of an abundance of caution, this transcript has a limited number of narrowly tailored redactions, relating only to confidential sources and methods, non-public information about ongoing investigations, and non-material personal information.

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

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, I was absent April 8, 2019. If I were present, I would have voted on the following: Roll no. 157—H. Con. Res. 19, On motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution: "yea"; Roll no. 158—H.R. 1331, On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill: "yea"; and Roll no. 159—JOURNAL, On Approving the Journal: "yea".

HONORING THE BERLIN BROTHERSVALLEY GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM ON THEIR PIAA CLASS 1A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Mr. JOYCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Berlin Brothersvalley High School girls' basketball team who won their first PIAA Class 1A state championship.

The Lady Mountaineers emerged victorious over Lourdes Regional 41–32. The Lady Mountaineers got ahead early, ending the first quarter with an 11–0 lead.

Alexis Yanosky had a team high 12 points and Zoie Smith added another 10 points. The hard work the girls put in during the season paid off in Hershey.

High school athletics is a great way for students to build character and form a lasting bond with teammates.

Please join me in congratulating the Lady Mountaineers.

IN RECOGNITION OF BGSU HOCKEY'S NCAA TOURNAMENT APPEARANCE

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Bowling Green State University Hockey team for earning a bid to the 2019 NCAA Men's Hockey National Championship Tournament. Their admittance to this year's "Big Dance" follows a 29-year absence and marked the program's 10th appearance.

While this year's campaign saw the Falcons' fourth consecutive 20+ win season and fifth consecutive winning season, it was the first tournament appearance in nearly three decades. The team ranked in the top ten in scoring in the country, while also maintaining an impressive defense—ranking second in goals allowed in the NCAA.

The Falcons made the school, the city, and the entire community proud. Once again, congratulations to the Falcons on their NCAA Tournament appearance. Great job, Bowling Green Hockey.

REMEMBRANCE OF MICHAEL PRATT

HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Michael "Mike" Pratt, who passed away on March 30th of this year. Mike Pratt worked as a Logistics and Support Specialist under the Chief Administrative Officer since November 2006. During those years, he worked diligently throughout the U.S. Capitol in his support role providing special event and furniture moving services to the Capitol and the Capitol Visitor Center.

Mike was a well-known face throughout the Capitol for his superior work supporting major events, such as multiple State of the Union Addresses, Presidential Inaugurations, Congressional Gold Medal Ceremonies, Congressional Transitions, and various other events that took place here in our nation's capital. However, what ingratiated Mike to the many offices and employees in the Capitol was his commitment to his day-to-day tasks.

It is the dedicated service of Mike and his colleagues that allow the U.S. House of Representatives to function seamlessly on a daily basis. Mike is survived by his long-time girlfriend, Renika Bridges and son, Caliea "Spunky" Hill. We remember him as a true professional and remain grateful for his many years of service to Congress. I extend my deepest condolences to his family, friends, and co-workers. He will be missed.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. KENDRA S. HORN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 3, 2019

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1585) to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, and for other purposes:

Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma. Mr. Chair, I am honored to have supported the 2019 reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). This vitally important legislation continues and expands critical protections for families and women facing abuse.

As an Oklahoman and member of the Native American Caucus, I am grateful this legislation expands protection for our Native women, children, and law enforcement. House Resolution 1585 improves tribal access to federal crime information databases. It creates new mechanisms that let us hold non-Native abusers of Natives accountable. It reaffirms that tribal governments can prosecute those non-Natives in cases of domestic and intimate partner violence, and it expands those protections to children. Native children are 50 times more likely to be abused, according to the National Congress of American Indians, and 60 percent of the non-Native-on-Native abuse crimes tried since 2013 have involved children.

Health care is one of the most important issues in my district. H.R. 1585 creates more opportunities and access to survivors. It reauthorizes critical grants providers use to treat patients, and it broadens the reach of these grants to develop services to address the safety, medical, and mental health needs of survivors, while maintaining the grants' local focus on providing funds to state domestic and sexual violence coalitions.

We need to work every day to support survivors and provide the services they and their families need. When we work with survivors, though, we must examine the root of the problem and study long-term effects. We, as policymakers, understand survivors have undergone trauma, but we do not focus enough on the lasting effect trauma can have on health—both mental and physical. We need to acknowledge Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).

ACE scores are determined through a ten-question quiz that is based on a list of experiences people might see or undergo before turning 18. It includes sexual abuse, neglect, and incarceration of a parent or family member.

If a person has experienced four or more of these adverse experiences, they are 700 percent more likely to be diagnosed with depression. They are more likely to have attempted suicide. Severe obesity, diabetes, cancer, and stroke all become more likely the higher one's ACEs score. Oklahoma's average score is 4.8. It is no coincidence that we rank poorly for health outcomes.

I am proud of local providers in my own district including the Palomar Family Justice Center, that use ACEs data to interrupt the cycle of abuse. I am also proud of the Potts Family Foundation, which has been a leader in our community on the conversation about trauma.

We must take an evidence-based approach. We must understand the nature and impact of trauma to best serve those who have suffered.

COMMEMORATING NATIONAL WEEK OF CONVERSATION

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Mr. STIVERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the citizens of Ohio's 15th Congressional District to commemorate the National Week of Conversation, a week that seeks to encourage all individuals to have meaningful conversations with one another, and to respect differing opinions.

There are 300 million people in our country who are struggling with a tumultuous time and how to communicate with each other when they disagree. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said: "We must live together as brothers, or perish together as fools." It is that example of compassion and respect that Congresswoman JOYCE BEATTY (D–OH) and I strive to demonstrate as Founders and Co-Chairs of the Civility and Respect Caucus.

We created our caucus not to change people's opinions, beliefs, or political affiliation, but to show that by coming together, we can find solutions that lead to better policy. From combatting youth homelessness and human trafficking, to supporting our veterans and promoting financial literacy—every issue that we have collaborated on begins with a conversation.

That is why I am honored to commemorate the National Week of Conversation. Vilifying one another or attacking another's motives will not solve problems, but conversation and discussion alone can make us better. As Dr. King also said, "people fail to get along because they fear each other; they fear each other because they do not know each other, and the do not know each other because they have not communicated with each other.

In the spirit of the National Week of Conversation, I would encourage everyone to have a conversation with someone new, and to show that it is possible to disagree without being disagreeable.

CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF MT. RONA MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the legacy of Mt. Rona Missionary Baptist Church in Effingham, South Carolina. This historic church has served its faithful congregation and the community for 150 years. During its remarkable history, Mt. Rona has seen tremendous change and growth and provided extraordinary service to those in need.

The founders of Mt. Rona began meeting in the small community of Friendfield under a bush arbor in 1869. The congregants continued this tradition until in 1905 when they were given the former Mt. Hebron Church as its congregation moved to a new sanctuary. Reverend J.R. Brooks led the transition to Mt. Rona's new home, and the congregation flourished.

Over the years physical improvements were made to the church. Reverend Frank Ham oversaw the installation of a steeple and bell tower with a chime. He also added new pews and electricity. Reverend James Hall, Jr., created the first pastor's study and an inside baptismal pool. Reverend J.L. Lewis and Reverend James Anderson led the bricking of the church, and installed carpet and an intercom system.

When Reverend Tart became the church's leader, he changed the worship service from twice monthly to every Sunday. The church purchased additional land, built the T.C. Tart Fellowship Hall, added stained glass windows, paved the parking lot, and added new restrooms. His vision was to build a new church, and in July 2010 construction began. Reverend Tart passed away before he saw the church completed, and Pastor Parrish Brown saw the project through to completion and became the first to serve as the leader of the new Mt. Rona. It was dedicated on April 10, 2011.

Throughout the physical and leadership changes Mt. Rona Missionary Baptist Church has held true to its mission to be an outreach ministry that provides support and relief to the disheartened, disadvantaged, and disenfranchised.

I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the tremendous role Mt. Rona Missionary Baptist Church plays in the community and in the lives of its parishioners. The church's dedication to help the least of these is a reflection of the Biblical teaching that "faith without works is dead." I congratulate the Mount Rona Missionary Baptist Church on this landmark 150th anniversary and know that the church will continue to be a beacon in Florence for many years to come.

CABIN AIR SAFETY ACT OF 2019

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the "Cabin Air Safety Act of 2019," to protect commercial airline passengers and crew from toxic air onboard commercial aircraft.

All Americans have the right to expect safe, clean air when travelling or reporting to work. I am deeply concerned by the documented cases where pilots, flight attendants, and other airline crewmembers have been incapacitated or even hospitalized following exposure to toxic cabin air.

The "Cabin Air Safety Act" takes commonsense steps to protect airline passengers and crew, including installing carbon monoxide detectors in commercial aircraft. I thank Senator BLUMENTHAL (D–CT) for leading this bill last Congress and look forward to working with him to advance this critical legislation.

"Toxic fume" events occur when air contaminated by engine exhaust, fuel fumes, deicing fluids, and ozone enters the aircraft cabin through the jet-engine intake. Exposure to even low levels of these contaminants can incapacitate passengers and crew and long-term exposure could lead to serious, debilitating health issues.

Our bicameral legislation would better protect airline passengers and crew by: mandating training regarding toxic fumes on aircraft, requiring the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to record and monitor reports of toxic fume events, ensuring that investigations occur following toxic fume events, and installing carbon monoxide sensors on aircraft.

Senator BLUMENTHAL's and my legislation is endorsed by the Air Line Pilots Association International, Association of Flight Attendants, Allied Pilots Association, Association of Professional Flight Attendants, International Union of Teamsters, National Consumers League, Southwest Airlines Pilots' Association, and International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to cosponsor the "Cabin Air Safety Act."

INTRODUCTION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE ASSISTANCE ACT

HON. GREG STANTON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Mr. STANTON. Madam Speaker, in its most recent annual infrastructure report card, the American Society of Civil Engineers gives our nation's drinking water and wastewater systems a grade of D and D− respectively, meaning they are in fair to poor condition. For the state of Arizona, drinking water and wastewater systems rank slightly better, C− and C respectively.

Over the next 20 years, Arizona will have $1.93 billion in drinking water and $6.77 billion in wastewater infrastructure needs. Unfortunately, small and rural communities across Arizona often lack the financial resources to do the necessary repairs and replacement of their aging infrastructure. To help address these infrastructure challenges, I am introducing the Environmental Infrastructure Assistance Act to provide federal assistance through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the communities in Arizona.

The bill would provide financial assistance to public entities, in the form of design and construction for water-related environmental infrastructure, and resource protection and development projects. Projects could include: wastewater treatment and related facilities; water supply, storage, treatment and related facilities; environmental restoration; and surface water resource protection and development. Additionally, funds could be used for technical assistance for water planning and access to water resources.

The Environmental Infrastructure Assistance Act would provide another resource for communities to use to meet their water infrastructure needs, and I am pleased to have the support of the Rural Water Association of Arizona and the Arizona Water Association for this legislation.

It is my hope that as we focus on infrastructure this Congress that we make sure investments are not only made in our roads, bridges and airports, but that we also address water infrastructure needs of communities in Arizona and across the country.

IN MEMORY OF DR. BETTYE MYERS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of Bettye Myers, an invaluable member of the Texas Woman's University community. Dr. Myers, a longtime Denton resident, taught at TWU as a Professor of Kinesiology for more than half a century. She recently passed away at the age of 92.

Before she was a professor, Myers began her time at the university as a student. After

completing the 11th grade, she enrolled at TWU and earned her bachelor's degree in Health, Physical Education & Recreation, with a minor in Government-Sociology, in 1946. The following year, she completed a master's degree at TWU and in 1960 earned a Ph.D. in counseling psychology from the University of Michigan. Dr. Myers returned to TWU as a faculty member in 1961. After completing 54 years of faithful service to the university, she retired in 2015. In honor of her service, TWU dedicated the Dr. Bettye Myers Butterfly Garden in 2016.

Throughout her career, Dr. Myers was an involved and beloved member of the Denton community. She was actively involved in many organizations, including the TWU Alumnae Association, the Kiwanis, AIDS Services of North Texas, the United Way of Denton County, and the Denton Independent School District Board of Trustees. In recognition of her service and contributions, the City of Denton declared September 26, 2006, her 80th birthday, as ''Bettye Myers Day.''

Dr. Myers received more than 30 awards for education and civic participation; however, she is most remembered for her kindness and dedication. Her legacy will continue on at Myers Middle School, where generations of North Texans will learn about her lifelong dedication to education as students at the school that bears her name.

I am grateful for Dr. Myers' many contributions to TWU and Denton. A true North Texas legend, she will be remembered by those whose lives she touched. I offer my condolences to her many friends and family upon this great loss.

INFANT FORMULA PROTECTION ACT OF 2019

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of the Infant Formula Protection Act.

As a mom, I know the fear and the pressure that comes with caring for a newborn; all a new parent wants is to make sure their baby is healthy. Busy parents need to be able to rely on the safety of products, like formula, that they buy in grocery stores to make sure their newborns are well-fed and healthy. Grocery stores that stock expired formula—even by just a few days—pose real health risks to infants.

Although regulations require expiration dates to be placed on formula, there is no federal law that prohibits the sale of the product after it has expired. As a result, many stores continue to keep the expired items on their shelves even though the products are outdated.

That is why I have introduced the Infant Formula Protection Act of 2019, which would categorize expired infant formula as ''adulterated.'' A grocery store that stocks an adulterated substance can incur fines and other penalties. Parents must be able to trust the safety of the products they buy in their stores.

Madam Speaker, we cannot take any chances with what we feed our babies, I urge my colleagues to join me and pass the Infant Formula Protection Act.

COMMEMORATING THE 160TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, this year marks the 160th anniversary of the founding of the Church of St. Michael the Archangel in Providence, Rhode Island. St. Michael's parish reflects the vibrancy and diversity of Rhode Island, and its social programs continue to make a positive impact in the community.

In 1859, St. Bernard's Parish, which would become St. Michael's, was founded in Rhode Island. Within a year, it became the home of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, serving Irish immigrants who fled the Great Famine. This was the start of St. Michael's dedication to community service, a tradition that has continued for 160 years.

Since its founding, St. Michael's has provided a welcoming and inclusive community for the successive waves of immigrants who have arrived in Rhode Island. Beginning with Irish, Italian, Portuguese, and other Western European immigrant populations, the St. Michael's community has expanded to include members of more than 40 nationalities or countries of origin, with mass celebrated in five different languages. The multicultural, multilingual community exemplifies Rhode Island's founding principles of inclusion, acceptance, respect, religious tolerance, and the celebration of our common humanity.

St. Michael's mission of service has long brought parishioners together to meet the needs of its members and of the broader community. Through their tireless advocacy, commitment to service, and partnerships with local nonprofits and other faith-based organizations, the people of St. Michael's have helped countless individuals and made an indelible mark on the state.

St. Michael's 160th anniversary is an incredible milestone for one of the spiritual and charitable pillars of Rhode Island, and I look forward to congratulating the parish on many more anniversaries to come.

HONORING THE CAREER AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MS. MARY ANN MELCHERS

HON. ELAINE G. LURIA

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and accomplishments of Mary Ann Melchers. Mary Ann Melchers has been a female pioneer during the 54 years that she has been an active member and volunteer in the credit union movement. She began her relationship with credit unions as a volunteer with Norfolk Naval Base Federal Credit Union following a merger with Amphibious Base Federal Credit Union in Hampton Roads, Virginia. Today, the credit union is known as ABNB Federal Credit Union and is the largest community credit union in Southeastern Virginia.

Her credit union volunteer career is well documented. In 1965, she became a member of the Credit Committee at Naval Base Norfolk Federal Credit Union. This was an especially significant achievement considering that women were unable to obtain credit in their own name at that time in history. Despite those obstacles, she began her lifelong quest to ensure that all people of modest means regardless of gender, race or creed have access to credit and the other vital financial services they need.

In succeeding years, deregulation dramatically changed the face of the financial services industry. In the late 1970's, Mary Ann guided the credit union's evolution by recognizing and then expanding the growth of products and services offered to members from simple savings accounts and small loans to full-service financial offerings. Through her leadership, she also made history as the first woman elected to the office of Chairperson of the Board of Directors at Naval Base Federal Credit Union. This achievement came at a time when women were rarely participants in American business boardrooms let alone serving in leadership roles. As chair she was instrumental in successfully consummating the 1996 merger of Naval Base and Amphibious Base Federal Credit Unions, resulting in what is now known as ABNB Federal Credit Union.

At ABNB Federal Credit Union, Mary Ann has held numerous leadership positions serving as Vice Chair of the Board from 1996 to 1998. In 1999, she was elected Chair of the ABNB FCU Board, beginning a 20-year volunteer career as chair and only the second woman to hold that position in ABNB's history. Under her leadership ABNB grew from 32,615 to 59,469 members and from $182 million to well over $57 million in assets.

Through her stewardship, the credit union also expanded its field of membership from solely serving military personnel on the Naval Base and Amphibious Base into the largest full-service community credit union. Today, the credit union serves over 60,000 members across Hampton Roads and Northeastern North Carolina with 18 branches and 24 surcharge-free ATM's. In addition, she was the 2016 recipient of the Virginia Credit Union League's highest honor, the James P. Kirsch Lifetime Achievement Award. This award is given annually to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to the credit union movement over the course of their career.

In summary, Mary Ann was able to deliver on her promise ensuring that people of modest means have access to credit and other affordable financial services. During her 54-year volunteer career she was instrumental in guiding a credit union that would eventually serve everyone in Hampton Roads and beyond with low cost and high-quality financial services.

CELEBRATING GENOA HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING FOR WINNING DUAL MEET AND TEAM STATE TITLES

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Genoa High School Comets for winning the Ohio School Athletic Association

Division III State Dual Title and Team Title. This is the second consecutive year in which the Comets are state champions in both events.

In the state dual meet, the Comets fought back after losing three out of their first four matches to secure a 52–23 victory over Milan Edison. Individually, Oscar Sanchez, Julian Sanchez, Dustin Morgillo, Kevin Contos, and James Limongi all won state titles. The Comets cruised to the title by setting a D–III record by scoring 162 points.

The Genoa community should be proud of the effort from these student-athletes and the dedication, hard-work, and mental fortitude it takes to compete at such a high level. Congratulations to Coach Bob Bergman and the Comets on the state titles. Well done, Genoa wrestling.

SAVE THE INTERNET ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2019

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1644) to restore the open internet order of the Federal Communications Commission:

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Chair, the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC's) partisan vote to rollback net neutrality regulations implemented under the Obama Administration was extremely troubling and quite wrong. Allowing internet service providers (ISPs) to charge for ''fast lanes'' would alter the internet significantly.

The idea that broadband internet access is an information service, rather than a telecommunications service, was a convenient legal-fiction in the 90s when broadband was in an infancy, to help speed its adoption. But classifying broadband as anything other than telecommunication service today is intellectually empty.

The argument the FCC puts forward that broadband is an information service because it offers domain name resolution is laughable. According to the FCC, you aren't buying internet access you are buying a DNS service, something I'm willing to bet 98 percent of broadband customers have never heard of.

It must be a triumph of marketing genius that broadband providers have sold 98 percent of their customers something that they have never heard of, or even knew they had. Under this logic, I guess telephone lines aren't telecommunication services, but phonebook information services.

Likewise, the FCC's argument that somehow net neutrality has harmed broadband deployment has not only been directly contradicted for years by broadband providers' statements to shareholders, one only needs to look at Comcast for an example of how wrong the FCC is.

Because of the consent decree it agreed to for its purchase of NBC Universal, Comcast was subject to net neutrality longer than any other broadband provider, from 2011 to 2018. In those 7 years, the average Comcast broadband connection went from 18 megabits per second to 69 megabits per second. In 2017, Comcast had the fastest national Speed Score according to internet speed test company Ookla.

As for the concerns around the reclassification itself, the FCC never attempted to use any of the Title II authorities that broadband companies were allegedly concerned about. In fact, the FCC barred themselves from doing so in the original net neutrality order.

By voting in favor of H.R. 1644, we will be codifying this forbearance, effectively preventing any future FCC from undoing that forbearance without Congress.

The Internet has become an indispensable part of all aspects of modern life. And our reliance on it as a neutral gateway will only increase. It would be irresponsible of Congress not to protect the openness and freedom of the Internet that has made so much possible.

I can't fathom why this isn't a bipartisan issue, but to quote Wade Randlett, founder of TechNet: ''The GOP seems to think that Orwellian language is going to work on the world's smartest people, ... If you say net neutrality is government regulation—and if you think there's anyone in the valley who thinks that's a true statement—you're already dead in the water. They would be better off just saying, 'We respectfully disagree.' ''

I am a proud original cosponsor of H.R. 1644, the Save the Internet Act, and urge my colleagues to vote in favor.

CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE IN TAIWAN

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, forty years ago today, President Carter signed the Taiwan Relations Act, which established a new chapter in the United States relationship with Taiwan. The Taiwan Relations Act allowed the people of the United States and Taiwan to continue commercial, cultural, and other relations even after the United States government had changed its diplomatic recognition from Taipei to Beijing earlier that year.

One of the most integral parts of this legislation was the establishment of the American Institute in Taiwan. This organization's directive was to carry out programs, transactions and any other forms of relations by the United States government with respect to Taiwan.

Today, I want to recognize the hard work done by the personnel at the American Institute in Taiwan, past and present. The AIT has served a unique role for the past four decades in regards to United States diplomacy in East Asia. Staffed by employees from various agencies throughout the U.S. government, AIT manages the day-to-day security and defense, economic and commercial, and people-to-people aspects of our close relationship with Taiwan.

As the United States-Taiwan relationship continues to grow, I hope the American Institute in Taiwan will continue to play an important role in strengthening our friendship with Taiwan.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF ERMIAS JOSEPH ASGHEDOM, KNOWN ALSO AS NIPSEY HUSSLE, AND HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO SOUTH LOS ANGELES

HON. KAREN BASS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Ms. BASS. Madam Speaker, may this entry serve as enduring recognition of the legacy lived and left by Ermias Joseph Asghedom, known to his community and the neighborhoods of South Los Angeles and beyond, as Nipsey Hussle.

Nipsey Hussle was born in the Hyde Park neighborhood of South Los Angeles in 1985. His father was the only member of his own family in Eritrea to move to the United States, where he met Nipsey Hussle's mother. As a teen, Nipsey attended Alexander Hamilton High School, as did I, as did many in South Los Angeles. He went on to pursue a music career that would touch millions, culminating in national recognition for his studio album ''Victory Lap''.

An innovator, entrepreneur and community investor, Nipsey Hussle used the platform he created with his music to further demonstrate not only his business savvy, but his love and pride for where he came from in addition to showing the importance of community ownership and reinvestment. In the same way he went from selling mixtapes on the corner of Crenshaw and Slauson to owning the masters of his GRAMMY-nominated album, Nipsey Hussle went from trademarking his clothing line, to owning the stores selling his trademarked clothing line, to owning the shopping plaza where the store selling his clothing line was located.

Marathon Clothing is a technologically ground-breaking store that could have been opened anywhere. Nipsey Hussle opened it on Slauson and Crenshaw. South Los Angeles was where he invested; opening a barbershop and two restaurants in that same intersection, reopening the World on Wheels skating rink in Mid-City, and partnering with Vector 90, one of the first work spaces and incubators in South L.A. designed to support black and brown entrepreneurship locally. He also worked with the Los Angeles City Council on Destination Crenshaw, a project to be built for, by, and in honor of our community in celebration of the historical and contemporary contributions of Black L.A. and the Crenshaw community.

Throughout his projects, Nipsey Hussle brought the neighborhood with him. In working to ensure that the community was knowledgeable about their economic power, Nipsey Hussle made sure to give jobs to residents in the neighborhood who were struggling, some of which were homeless and formerly incarcerated. He once provided a pair of shoes to every student at 59th Street Elementary School and also donated to renovate the school's playground and basketball courts. He inspired many others in the entertainment industry to actively invest in South Los Angeles neighborhoods as well.

A humble visionary, Nipsey Hussle initiated peace in a community where experiences of systematic injustices appear in the form of police brutality and gang violence. He saw the overlooked and welcomed the dismissed. He

was an activist working to reduce gun violence in the community, hosting demonstrations and symposiums over the years. He was slated to meet with the Los Angeles Police Department about reducing gun violence in the community the day after he was murdered.

He taught and reminded our community that the power we hold is the power we come from and that awareness of our power is something no one can take from us. Nipsey Hussle will be remembered as a visionary, as a protector, as an inspiration, as a philanthropist, as a father, as a brother and as an unabashed son of South Los Angeles. For all he was given, he gave back. And for that legacy, South Los Angeles has been changed forever.

CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Trinity Baptist Church in Florence, South Carolina as it celebrates its 150th anniversary and to congratulate Reverend Dr. Calvin E. Robinson, Jr. and his congregation on this significant milestone in the life of the church and congregation. This historic congregation was founded during the Reconstruction Era and throughout its history has been a beacon in times of joy and sorrow for the Florence community.

Trinity Baptist Church had its humble beginnings in a home on Front Street. Thereafter a group of faithful Christians came together and purchased the lot adjoining the present edifice and the first framed building was constructed. The structure allowed the church to continue to grow and flourish under the leadership of Reverend Wesley J. Parnell.

After a period of significant growth, the church moved to its current location where membership nearly doubled in the first few years. On one occasion two hundred members were baptized on the same day.

Under the pastorate of Reverend Charles T. Taylor the church organized the Missionary Society and an outstanding field effort to establish Morris College in 1908, which is owned by the Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of South Carolina—an organization that Trinity Baptist helped to found and organize. I am particularly pleased with this effort because both my parents obtained degrees from Morris.

Under the leadership of a previous pastor, Reverend William P. Diggs, the church experienced unprecedented growth, greatly increasing its giving to missions, benevolences and education. In 1968, the church was expanded to include an education building and the sanctuary was extensively renovated. This new renovation and expansion helped the church to grow its education mission. It also provided the church with a choir room and a fellowship hall. The church has grown other missions including the Junior Missionary Society, Gospel Choir, Sunday School, and the Young Women's Auxiliary.

Madam Speaker, I invite you and my colleagues to join me in commending Trinity Baptist Church for one hundred fifty years of faithful service. Its members continue to be beacons of hope in Florence, providing compassion and care for, not only its members, but also the least among us. I congratulate Trinity Baptist Church for its rich history and look forward to continue witnessing the good works of the church as it continues to grow and serve.

GLASS-STEAGALL

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Return to Prudent Banking Act of 2019, a bill to reinstate the Glass-Steagall Act. In the wake of the Great Depression, the 1933 Glass-Steagall Act was passed in order to separate commercial and investment banks, and prevent Wall Street from gambling with the head-earned money of the American people.

Tragically, the big banks and their crony lobbyists pushed Congress to repeal the law in 1999. This deeply misguided deregulation may have benefitted a few wealthy bankers. However, it opened the floodgates to the growth of financial institutions that are too big to fail and encouraged the type of risky behaviors that led to the crash of the American financial system in 2008.

Although we made significant progress with the Dodd-Frank Act, large commercial and investment banks are still tied together in an institutional risk which poses dramatic systemic risk to the financial well-being of our country. I urge my colleagues to join me in passing the Prudent Banking Act to reimplement the vital protections of the Glass-Steagall Act that serve to ensure the security and stability of our financial system.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE REVEREND DR. MARCUS J. GIBSON

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding Man of God and friend of longstanding, Reverend Dr. Marcus J. Gibson, who will celebrate his 20th anniversary as the distinguished pastor of Greater Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Columbus, Georgia. Anniversary worship services will be held on Sunday, April 14, 2019, at the church.

Rev. Gibson is a native of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, who served our nation honorably as a U.S. Army officer from 1995 to 1999, after graduating from Watson Chapel High School. He went on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, a Master of Divinity degree from the Morehouse School of Religion, and a Doctorate of Ministry in Preaching from the McCormick Theological Seminary. Over the years, he has continued to encourage others to pursue advanced education through his service as an Adjunct Professor of Biblical and Religious Studies at the Beulah Heights University Columbus extension site.

Always seeking to improve the craft of Christian ministry and discipleship, Rev. Gibson has served as President of the Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Association Congress of Christian Education, President of the Metro-Columbus Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, and Dean of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia Congress of Christian Education.

Not one to rest on his laurels, Rev. Gibson is an active member of many civic organizations where he continuously devotes his time and energy to his community. He is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and is a Master Mason in Electric Light Lodge No. 45, Arkansas Jurisdiction (Prince Hall Affiliation). Furthermore, Rev. Gibson has served as a member of the Muscogee County (Georgia) Sheriff's Advisory Board; a member of the Mayor's Commission on Unity, Diversity, and Prosperity; a member of the Citizens Trust Bank Columbus Advisory Board; and has worked with numerous other community-based organizations within the Columbus, Georgia area.

Rev. Gibson has achieved much in his life, but none of it would be possible but for the Grace of God and the love and the support of his son, MarDarius; and his daughter, MarKayla.

Madam Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian; and me, along with the congregation of Greater Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church and more than 730,000 residents of Georgia's Second Congressional District, in extending our sincerest congratulations to Reverend Dr. Marcus J. Gibson on this joyous occasion. A man of great accomplishment, he is an outstanding mentor, strong leader, and prominent community activist, but above all, he is a faithful servant of God.

MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS RIGHT TO KNOW ACT OF 2019

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of the Menstrual Products Right to Know Act. This legislation would make menstrual hygiene products safer by ensuring that women know what they are putting in their bodies. This bill would require manufacturers of commonly used menstrual hygiene products, such as scented and unscented pads, cups, and scented and unscented tampons, to label the ingredients in these items, and list them in descending order of concentration.

We can easily see the ingredients used in the shampoo we put in our hair; these same transparency requirements should apply to products that touch, or are inserted to, sensitive female anatomy. Consumers are being denied access to crucial information, which affects their safety and impacts their ability to make informed choices.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Menstrual Products Right to Know Act.

HONORING LAURA HABR ON BEING NAMED FIRST CITIZEN OF VIRGINIA BEACH

HON. ELAINE G. LURIA

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Laura Habr on being named the First Citizen of Virginia Beach. This is an amazing accomplishment.

This award recognizes Laura's lifetime of service and commitment to the welfare of our community. Laura's commitment to her business, Croc's, and her role as a civic leader is inspiring to many. Her business and leadership are well known in Virginia Beach. Additionally, her input on boards and committees—such as the Old Beach Farmers Market, Green Resort Ecofriendly Neighbors, and the Resort Advisory Commission—is invaluable.

Laura's dedication to inclusion and to strengthening the community is truly inspiring. I am proud to honor and recognize Laura for her leadership and the role she plays in making our community a better place. Virginia Beach has significantly benefited from her presence.

CONGRATULATING DR. STEPHEN MITROS ON HIS RETIREMENT AFTER FOUR DECADES OF SERVICE

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Mrs. WALORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Stephen Mitros on his retirement from his orthopaedic surgery practice after 43 years.

Dr. Mitros has served the South Bend community for generations. His commitment to excellent care goes beyond treatment and recovery. He has always shown his patients he truly cares about each individual and wants to treat their pain in a way that works best for them. The team at Mitros Orthopaedics in South Bend, a true family practice, demonstrates unparalleled expertise, compassion, and dedication to their work. Family has always been central to Dr. Mitros's practice. His wife, Janet, was the office manager and a registered nurse, and their daughter Kellye was a medical assistant. He shared the lessons his father, Dr. Paul Mitros, taught him about caring for patients, and I have no doubt this legacy will continue far into the future.

Dr. Mitros has been a leader in addressing the opioid epidemic by focusing on a non-narcotic approach. He began to see a vast difference in his patients' health and well-being, as well as in their rate of recovery. He has been a guiding light in the orthopaedic community, and he has devoted time and energy outside of his practice to researching new techniques and training physicians across the country. Though Dr. Mitros said he "did not do it with any crusading idea about cutting down on my contribution to the opioid crisis," his leadership in promoting non-opioid alternatives to pain management truly did transform his practice and made a lasting difference in people's lives.

On behalf of 2nd District Hoosiers, I am grateful to Dr. Mitros for his years of dedicated service and for the innovative approach he took to caring for each patient and identifying comprehensive treatment options that put their health and well-being first. I look forward to continuing to work with providers like Dr. Mitros to address the opioid epidemic by advocating for patient-centered care.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Mitros and thanking him for all he has done to improve lives and advance the practice of orthopaedic medicine.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA LOCAL JUROR NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT OF 2019

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Local Juror Non-Discrimination Act of 2019. This bill would clarify that D.C. residents may not be excluded or disqualified from jury service in the D.C. Superior Court based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Specifically, my bill would clarify that "sex," which is a protected class under the non-discrimination law that currently applies to local D.C. jurors, includes sexual orientation and gender identity. Under the Home Rule Act, Congress has exclusive jurisdiction over Title 11 of the D.C. Code (relating to organization and jurisdiction of the local D.C. courts).

The District has one of the strongest non-discrimination laws in the country, including protecting individuals based on sexual orientation and gender identity. However, under the Home Rule Act, the District does not have the authority to make this non-discrimination law applicable to local jurors. Therefore, until the District is given complete control over the jurisdiction and organization of its local courts, an act of Congress is required to make this important change to protect the rights of all D.C. residents. I will soon be introducing a bill to give the District local control of its courts. In the meantime, however, the District of Columbia Local Juror Non-Discrimination Act of 2019 is necessary to protect D.C. jurors from discrimination.

My bill is based on H.R. 874, the Juror Non-Discrimination Act of 2019 (H.R. 874), which would make the same changes to federal jury law. I am a proud original cosponsor of that bill.

I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

HONORING THE CAREER OF MARY MACKBEE

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mary Mackbee on a remarkable 53-year career in public education as she prepares to retire as principal of Saint Paul's Central High School. Mary is a highly gifted educator, and far more—a civic leader in Minnesota's Capital City, a mentor to students, teachers, and parents alike and a model of what it means to be an engaged and caring member of the community.

Growing up in New Orleans, Mary attended segregated schools. Her teachers became vital to her life, so much so that by the time she was in 9th grade she knew that being a public educator was her life's calling. After attending Xavier University of Louisiana where she studied Social Studies and English, Mary was recruited to begin her teaching career here in Minnesota. So it was in September of 1966 that she embarked on what would become a career spanning more than five decades, primarily in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Mary began as a classroom teacher before moving to positions as principal and district administrator in the Saint Paul Public Schools. She ultimately returned to the role she loved more than any other in 1993. As principal of Saint Paul's Central High School, the oldest continuously operating high school in the state of Minnesota, she has overseen the education of an estimated 13,000 students during her tenure. She has earned a reputation as an ardent advocate for the arts and extracurricular programs, and is a frequent attendee of Central's various arts and athletic events beyond regular school hours.

Principal Mackbee has demonstrated resilient leadership through tumultuous changes in technology, demographics and traumatic events in the community and the "Central family." When difficult situations affect students and teachers at Central, she sets the tone by listening and leaning into what she believes is her school's strength—the diversity of the community. Mary notes that, "It (Central High School) always drew a very, very diverse population, from the black community of Rondo, the Jewish community of Highland, the rich community of Summit Avenue . . . I think that's what makes us strong." Through it all, Central High School has been successful in recruiting and retaining excellent teachers and maintaining outstanding academic, athletic and fine arts programs. This would not have been possible without the leadership and strong advocacy Mary has provided. The results show that this playbook is working—Central High School consistently ranks among the top high schools in the state for academic achievement and graduation rates.

Mary often starts her days at 6:30 in the morning and often doesn't leave campus until after eight o'clock. Staff and former students often remark about how there is no task too small for her to do when it comes to Central. Whether it be attending meetings with parents or students to wiping down cafeteria tables, Mary Mackbee knows what it takes to keep Central High School running and strong. Because of Mary, generations of students received outstanding instruction in a vibrant and supportive environment at Saint Paul's Central High School.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the remarkable 53-year career of one of our communities most respected and beloved leaders, Principal Mary Mackbee.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. PATRICIA ''PATTY'' PARKER CULLEN

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my personal congratulations and best wishes to an exceptional community leader and outstanding citizen, Mrs. Patricia ''Patty'' Parker Cullen, on the occasion of her retirement as the Executive Director of the River Valley Regional Commission.

A native of Phenix City, Alabama, Patty received both her bachelor's degree in Home Economics and her master's degree in Community Planning from Auburn University.

For almost four decades, she has been a well-respected leader in the community development industry in the Chattahoochee Valley region. She has built quite an impressive career, which began with her position as an Economic/Energy Planner for the Lower Chattahoochee Area Planning and Development Commission. During her extensive tenure in the community development industry, Patricia has held several leadership roles within the Lower Chattahoochee Area Planning and Development Commission, the Lower Chattahoochee Regional Development Center, and the River Valley Regional Commission. Patty has done a tremendous job in upholding the highest standards of achievement, service and public distinction.

Throughout her career, Patty has served on a number of boards and was affiliated with several associations including the Advisory Council at Auburn University; the American Planning Association; the Georgia Association of Regional Commissions; the Georgia Planning Association; and Kappa Kappa Gamma Alumni Association.

Patty has accomplished much throughout her life, but none of this would have been possible without the Grace of God and the love and support of her late husband, George; and her stepdaughter, Sally.

Sir Winston Churchill often said: ''You make your living by what you get; you make your life by what you give.'' The Lower Chattahoochee Valley area is a better place because Patty Cullen gave so much to so many to make our community stronger. As a woman of great integrity, her efforts, her dedication, and her expertise are unparalleled, but her heart for helping others utilizing these qualities has made her life's work truly special.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian; and me, along with the more than 730,000 citizens of Georgia's Second Congressional District, in extending our sincerest appreciation and best wishes to Patricia ''Patty'' Parker Cullen upon the occasion of her retirement from an outstanding career of public service.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE INAUGURATION OF DR. ADELA DE LA TORRE

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize an important milestone in the history of San Diego as Dr. Adela de la Torre is set to be inaugurated as San Diego State University's (SDSU) ninth President on April 11, 2019.

Her inauguration is taking place at a unique juncture in the history of San Diego State University and has the potential to impart a significant impact on higher education throughout San Diego County.

SDSU is, and always will be, a major driver of San Diego's economy. With an annual economic impact of over $5.67 billion dollars, it is important that we continue to support SDSU and the thousands of students who graduate from the institution every year; more than 60 percent of whom stay in San Diego and put their degrees to work in our local communities.

Dr. de la Torre is a graduate of UC Berkeley, and holds a master's degree and Ph.D. in agricultural and resource economics. She has been a dedicated leader in the higher education space for over 30 years.

Dr. de la Torre was appointed as SDSU's first woman president in June of 2018. Throughout her first year in this position, she has spent significant time ''listening and learning'' to stakeholders in the region and embarked on a listening tour throughout San Diego County to ensure she has an intimate understanding of the unique needs of the students SDSU serves.

As she assumes control of SDSU, Dr. de la Torre has an opportunity to establish her vision for the future. At a time when the University is planning a major expansion in Mission Valley, it is important that its leaders clearly articulate their plans for growth and development.

Under Dr. de la Torre's leadership, SDSU embarks on a journey to increase its local footprint and establish the infrastructure necessary to support students over the next century. By engaging with the community, she has positioned herself well for success.

As I reflect on Dr. de la Torre's past accomplishments, and on her vision for the future, I am inspired by her dedication to social justice, and to improving higher education for the good of all students. I believe that her experience has prepared her well for achievement of SDSU's lofty goals.

I am pleased to be able to welcome Dr. de la Torre as SDSU's new president, and look forward to seeing her vision for SDSU take shape. Under her guidance, SDSU stands poised and ready to greatly expand its impact, and emerge as a mecca for innovative higher education in California and beyond.

I extend my congratulations to her on her appointment and inauguration. In the short time she has been in San Diego orienting herself to every opportunity here, she has epitomized the future of our community. Dr. de la Torre is SDSU and will surely touch lives.

TRIBUTE TO CORPORAL ROBERT HENDRIKS

HON. THOMAS R. SUOZZI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Mr. SUOZZI. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my deepest sympathy and sorrow in the passing of Corporal Robert Hendriks. The son of Erik Hendriks and Felicia Biondo-Arculeo, Robert was a United States Marine who died this week while bravely serving his country in Afghanistan. This was his second deployment. Robert grew up in Locust Valley, New York, next to my hometown of Glen Cove. Almost immediately after graduating from Locust Valley High School in 2012, Robert joined the United Marine Corps Reserves, and was assigned to the Site Support 2nd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment in Garden City, NY.

On Monday, April 8th, Robert, along with the members of his unit were driving in a convoy near Baghram Air Base when an improvised explosive device was detonated near his Humvee. Robert, along with two other members of his unit were killed in this attack.

Known for his selflessness and commitment to duty, his friends and family also knew him as a kind and gentle person. ''He was the kind of kid you just want to hug,'' said his aunt. Robert's brother, Joseph, also a Marine, arrived in Afghanistan last week to begin his tour. Joseph is now escorting his brother's remains back home to their family.

Robert Hendriks is an American hero who reflects the best of the United States of America, the United States Marine Corps, and the Third Congressional District of New York. May God bless Robert Hendriks, and grant peace and strength to his family.

CLEAN FUELS NATIONAL AND THE CLEAN FUELS NATIONAL FUEL SUMMIT

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Clean Fuels National and the Clean Fuels National Fuel Summit held in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Hundreds of attendees spanning from Washington State to Pennsylvania will participate in this invitation-only forum. Business leaders will discuss important issues facing the industry, such as natural disaster preparation, card skimming and UST regulations.

This forum would not be possible without the hard work of Clean Fuels National and the Vanover Family. Kas, Mike, and Gregg Vanover founded Clean Fuels National in 2000, on the idea of providing exceptional fuel filtration and tank cleaning services to Northeast Indiana. Nineteen years later, Clean Fuels National is the largest fuel filtration and tank cleaning company in the United States. However, its roots remain grounded in Northeast Indiana. The bedrock of Clean Fuels National lies in the close-knit support of the surrounding community and its loyal customers. Today, Clean Fuels National employs over 60 individuals from Northeast Indiana and is constantly expanding.

I offer my congratulations to Clean Fuels National on all of their achievements, and best wishes for continued success in the years to come.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF EMINENCE, MISSOURI

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Sesquicentennial of Eminence, Missouri. Located in Shannon County, Eminence began as a small settlement along the Current River near Round Spring. In 1868, after the courthouse was burned in the Civil War, it was determined the town and county seat should be moved to a more centrally-located area. County Judges Alfred Deatherage, Thomas J. Chilton, and William Mahan commissioned William S. Chilton to find the new location. Utilizing the help of his brother, Thomas J. Chilton, they moved the town to its current location.

The early structures in Eminence were constructed out of log and plain lumber. The first businesses in town, a saloon, store, and post office, were constructed by Colonel Thomas Freeman and A.J.P. Deatherage.

Today, Eminence is known for its canoeing, trail riding, hunting, fishing, and camping. It is also the home of former astronaut Tom Akers, a veteran of four space shuttle missions and former Principal of Eminence High School.

The people of Eminence have shown their resiliency through the years by overcoming fires, floods, and other obstacles. This resiliency has made Eminence what it is today. It is my honor to acknowledge this historic birthday before the United States House of Representatives.

CONGRATULATING DAVE AND KATHLEEN SPARKS ON 50 YEARS AT McDONALD'S

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Mrs. WALORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dave and Kathleen Sparks on 50 years of growth, innovation, and leadership at McDonald's.

Dave began his career at McDonald's as a cashier while in college. In the beginning, he needed strong math skills, good customer service, and knowledge of the menu. These skills taught Dave the lessons that would stay with him through the launch of his career and would help shape his success as an owner-operator. His continued commitment to our community has helped grow our economy and provide good jobs for hardworking Hoosiers for decades. Dave's contributions to our state's workforce and franchise economy have been invaluable, and his entrepreneurial spirit and exceptional drive are inspirational to future generations.

Dave and his wife Kathleen have not only transformed the lives of their employees and other McDonald's owner-operators across the state, they have also been intimately involved with the northern Indiana Ronald McDonald House Charities. Their teamwork, leadership, and business acumen exemplify the strong Hoosier values that move our state forward, and they display the compassion that connects us all.

It is truly a privilege to represent Hoosier job creators like Dave and Kathleen, who never stop building opportunities for others and making Indiana a better place to live, work, and thrive.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dave Sparks on his 50th anniversary at McDonald's, and in thanking him for setting a positive example for business owners and franchisees across the country. I look forward to the incredible things that lie ahead for Dave, his family, and our nation's love of McDonald's, and I wish him all the best in this next chapter.

IN RECOGNITION OF BISHOP C. JAMES KING, JR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding Man of God, Bishop C. James King, Jr., the Presiding Bishop of the Fourth Episcopal District of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, which spans the state of Alabama. On Thursday, April 11, 2019, Bishop King will be the distinguished preacher for the Ecumenical Service at St. James AME Church located at 1002 Sixth Avenue in Columbus, Georgia.

Bishop Charles James King, Jr. was born on May 15, 1948, to the union of the late Mr. Charles James King, Sr. and Mrs. Ruthie Mae Middlebrooks King. The Columbus, Georgia native is the eldest of 12 children and was reared by his grandparents. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Paine College in 1974, his Master of Divinity degree in the Old Testament from The Interdenominational Theological Center in 1979, and his Doctor of Ministry degree in Educational Administration with a special concentration in Program Development from Ashland Theological Seminary in 1994.

During his career, Bishop King has pastored several congregations including Murray Memorial CME Church in Georgia; Bunton Institutional CME Church in Washington, D.C.; Brown Memorial CME Church in Kentucky; Trinity Church and Murchison Tabernacle CME Church in Indiana; as well as Peoples Community CME Church, Phillips Memorial CME Church, and St. Phillips CME Church in Ohio. He has also played a leading role in several religious and community-based organizations including Presiding Elder of the Cincinnati-Dayton-Indianapolis District in the Ohio-Central Indiana Region; the Episcopal Director of Faith-Based and Community-Based Ministries in the Second Episcopal District covering churches from Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, and North Carolina; and a member and vice chair of The General Board of Personnel Services for the CME Church, before being elected the 63rd Bishop of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in 2014.

Bishop King has always been a staunch advocate for helping economically disadvantaged adolescents and youth. As the President, CEO, and Founder of Project One, Inc., a faith-based non-profit corporation, he has helped over 15,000 youth become engaged in meaningful summer employment and after-school programs. He has also raised substantial amounts of funding to support youth through Project One programs like The Annual Summer Jobs Campaign; The Summer Earning and Enrichment Program; The Fatherhood Program; The Talented and Gifted Scholars (TAG) Program; and The After School University at the Alice Lucille Martin Educational Academy. Bishop King is the first C.M.E. preacher to serve as the Chair of the Board of Trustees for The Interdenominational Theological Center and has used his position to raise funds for the growth and expansion of the school.

Madam Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the congregation of St. James AME Church and the more than 730,000 residents of Georgia's Second Congressional District, in recognizing and commending a Columbus native son, Bishop C. James King, Jr., for his outstanding accomplishments in the ministry and his service to humankind. He is a man of great accomplishment, an outstanding mentor, and a prominent community leader, but above all, he is a faithful servant of God.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, April 11, 2019 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 20

4 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support

Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2020.

SR–232A

5 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Airland

Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2020.

SR–232A

5:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2020.
SR–232A

MAY 21

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Cybersecurity
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2020.
SR–232A

11 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on SeaPower
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2020.
SR–232A

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Personnel
Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2020.
SD–G50

3:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities
Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2020.
SR–232A

MAY 22

9 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2020.
SR–222

MAY 23

12 noon
Committee on Armed Services
Closed business meeting to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2020.
SR–222

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2349–S2398

Measures Introduced: Thirty-nine bills and six resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1101–1139, and S. Res. 153–158. **Pages S2385–87**

Measures Reported:

S. 195, to require the Director of the Government Publishing Office to establish and maintain a website accessible to the public that allows the public to obtain electronic copies of all congressionally mandated reports in one place, with an amendment. (S. Rept. No. 116–31)

S. 196, to save taxpayer money and improve the efficiency and speed of intragovernmental correspondence, with amendments. (S. Rept. No. 116–32)

S. 387, to prohibit Federal agencies and Federal contractors from requesting that an applicant for employment disclose criminal history record information before the applicant has received a conditional offer, with an amendment. (S. Rept. No. 116–33)

S. 383, 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.

S. 747, to reauthorize the diesel emissions reduction program.

S. 1061, to amend the John F. Kennedy Center Act to authorize appropriations for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. **Page S2385**

Measures Passed:

Relative to the death of former Senator Ernest F. Hollings: Senate agreed to S. Res. 155, relative to the death of the Honorable Ernest F. Hollings, former United States Senator for the State of South Carolina. **Page S2392**

Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 156, supporting the goals and ideals of Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work Day. **Page S2392**

Parkinson's Awareness Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 157, supporting the designation of April 2019 as "Parkinson's Awareness Month". **Page S2392**

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 158, authorizing the use of the atrium in the Philip A. Hart Senate Office Building for the National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, a semiannual event of the Drug Enforcement Administration. **Page S2392**

Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds: Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 16, authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition. **Page S2392**

Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds: Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 19, authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby. **Pages S2392–93**

Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Support Act: Senate passed S. 94, to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to facilitate the establishment of additional or expanded public target ranges in certain States. **Page S2393**

Bolivia and Latin America: Senate agreed to S. Res. 35, supporting democratic principles and standards in Bolivia and throughout Latin America. **Pages S2393–95**

United States alliances with Japan and the Republic of Korea: Senate agreed to S. Res. 67, expressing the sense of the Senate on the importance and vitality of the United States alliances with Japan and the Republic of Korea, and our trilateral cooperation in the pursuit of shared interests. **Pages S2395–97**

198th anniversary of the independence of Greece: Senate agreed to S. Res. 95, recognizing the 198th anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating democracy in Greece and the United States. **Page S2397**

Message from the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of the national emergency originally declared in Executive Order 13536 on April 12, 2010 with respect to Somalia; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–9) **Page S2383**

Bernhardt Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of nomination of David Bernhardt, of Virginia, to be Secretary of the Interior. **Pages S2375–76**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 56 yeas to 41 nays (Vote No. EX. 76), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S2375**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 10 a.m., on Thursday, April 11, 2019; and that all time during recess, adjournment, morning business and Leader remarks count post-cloture on the nomination. **Page S2397**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 53 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. EX. 70), Cheryl Marie Stanton, of South Carolina, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor. **Pages S2350–55, S2398**

By 92 yeas to 7 nays (Vote No. EX. 71), John P. Abizaid, of Nevada, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. **Pages S2355, S2398**

By 56 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. EX. 73), Holly A. Brady, of Indiana, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Indiana. **Pages S2355–65, S2398**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 56 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. EX. 72), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S2355**

By 56 yeas to 41 nays (Vote No. EX. 75), David Steven Morales, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas. **Pages S2366–75, S2398**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 57 yeas to 41 nays (Vote No. EX. 74), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S2365–66**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Kate Marie Byrnes, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of North Macedonia.

2 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.

1 Marine Corps nomination in the rank of general.

2 Navy nominations in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Foreign Service. **Page S2398**

Nomination Withdrawn: Senate received notification of withdrawal of the following nomination:

Kate Marie Byrnes, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Macedonia, which was sent to the Senate on January 16, 2019. **Page S2398**

Messages from the House: **Page S2383**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Pages S2349, S2383**

Executive Communications: **Pages S2383–85**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S2387–89**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Page S2389**

Additional Statements: **Pages S2382–83**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Pages S2391–92**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S2392**

Record Votes: Seven record votes were taken today. (Total—76) **Pages S2355, S2365, S2366, S2375**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:45 a.m. and adjourned, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late former Senator Ernest F. Hollings, of South Carolina, in accordance with S. Res. 155, at 7:14 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday, April 11, 2019. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2397.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

CHILD NUTRITION REAUTHORIZATION

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee concluded a hearing to examine perspectives on child nutrition reauthorization, after receiving testimony from Brandon Lipps, Acting Deputy Under Secretary of Agriculture, Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services, Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service; Kathryn A. Larin, Director, Education, Workforce, and Income Security, Government Accountability Office; Joshua Mathiasmeier, Kansas Public Schools, Kansas City; Michael J. Halligan, God's Pantry Food Bank, Inc., Lexington, Kentucky; Lauren Waits, Atlanta Community Food Bank, Atlanta, Georgia; Kati Wagner, National CACFP Sponsors Association, Round Rock, Texas; and Olanrewaju Falusi, American Academy of Pediatrics, Washington, D.C.

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2020 for the Department of Justice, after receiving testimony from William P. Barr, Attorney General, and Lee Lofthus, Chief Financial Officer, both of the Department of Justice.

APPROPRIATIONS: NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2020 for the National Guard and Reserve, after receiving testimony from General Joseph L. Lengyel, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, Lieutenant General Charles D. Luckey, Chief of the Army Reserve, Lieutenant General Richard W. Scobee, Chief of the Air Force Reserve, Vice Admiral Luke M. McCollum, Chief of the Navy Reserve, and Major General Bradley S. James, Commander of the Marine Corps Forces Reserve, all of the Department of Defense.

APPROPRIATIONS: GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILTY OFFICE AND CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Legislative Branch concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2020 for the Government Accountability Office and Congressional Budget Office, after receiving testimony from Gene Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States, Government Accountability Office; and Keith Hall, Director, Congressional Budget Office.

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2020 for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation within the Department of Interior, after receiving testimony from R.D. James, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, and Lieutenant General Todd T. Semonite, Chief of Engineers, Army Corps of Engineers, both of the Department of Defense; and Brenda Burman, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation, and Timothy R. Petty, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, both of the Department of the Interior.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST AND FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on SeaPower concluded a hearing to examine Marine Corps ground modernization and naval aviation programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2020 and Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from James F. Geurts, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development, and Acquisition, Lieutenant General David H. Berger, USMC, Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command, Deputy Commandant for Combat Development and Integration, Lieutenant General Steven R. Rudder, USMC, Deputy Commandant for Aviation, Headquarters United States Marine Corps, and Rear Admiral Scott D. Conn, USN, Director, Air Warfare, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, all of the Department of Defense.

DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASE CYBERSECURITY POLICY

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Cybersecurity concluded a closed hearing to examine defense industrial base cybersecurity policy, after receiving testimony from Kevin M. Fahey, Assistant Secretary for Acquisition, James F. Geurts, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development, and Acquisition, Garry P. Reid, Director for Defense Intelligence (Intelligence and Security), Office of the Under Secretary for Intelligence, and Major General Thomas E. Murphy, USAF, Director, Protecting Critical Technology Task Force, Office of the Secretary, all of the Department of Defense.

BROADBAND MAPPING

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine broadband mapping, focusing on challenges and solutions, after receiving testimony from Tim Donovan, Competitive Carriers Association, and Jonathan Spalter, USTelecom, both of Washington, D.C.; Mike McCormick, Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation, Jackson; Mike Oblizalo, Hood Canal Communications, Shelton, Washington; and Chip Strange, Ookla, LLC, Seattle, Washington.

PIPELINE SAFETY

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Transportation and Safety concluded a hearing to examine pipeline safety, focusing on Federal oversight and stakeholder perspectives, after receiving testimony from Howard Elliott, Administrator, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation; Robert Sumwalt, Chairman, National Transportation Safety Board; Paul R. Amato, Iroquois Pipeline Operating

Company, Shelton, Connecticut, on behalf of the Interstate Natural Gas Association of America; and Robin Rorick, American Petroleum Institute, Washington, D.C.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S.383, 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;

S.747, to reauthorize the diesel emissions reduction program;

An original bill entitled, ''John F. Kennedy Center Reauthorization Act of 2019''; and

8 General Services Administration resolutions.

TAX FILING SEASON

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the 2019 tax filing season and the 21st century Internal Revenue Service, after receiving testimony from Charles P. Rettig, Commissioner, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE BUDGET

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2020 for the Department of State, after receiving testimony from Mike Pompeo, Secretary of State.

HIGHER EDUCATION ACT REAUTHORIZATION

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine reauthorizing the Higher Education Act, focusing on strengthening accountability to protect students and taxpayers, after receiving testimony from Tressie McMillan Cottom, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond; Adam Looney, Brookings Institution Center on Regulation and Markets, Washington, D.C.; David A. Tandberg, State Higher Education Executive Officers, Boulder, Colorado; and Belle Wheelan, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, Decatur, Georgia.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN INDIAN COUNTRY

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine building out Indian country, focusing on tools for community development, after receiving testimony from Tara Mac Lean Sweeney, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs; Jodie Harris, Director, Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, Department of the Treasury; Henry Childs II, National Director, Minority Business Development Agency, Department of Commerce; Jacki Ponti-Lazaruk, Chief Innovation Officer, Rural Development, Department of Agriculture; and Mark Thompson, Acoma Pueblo, Albuquerque, New Mexico, on behalf of the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center and Indian Pueblos Marketing, Inc.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Jeffrey A. Rosen, of Virginia, to be Deputy Attorney General, Department of Justice, who was introduced by Senator Portman; and Jeffrey Vincent Brown, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas, Stephanie L. Haines, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, who was introduced by Senator Toomey, and Brantley Starr, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

FREE SPEECH

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on the Constitution concluded a hearing to examine free speech, focusing on technological censorship and the public discourse, after receiving testimony from Carlos Monje, Twitter, Inc., Washington, D.C.; Neil Potts, Facebook, Menlo Park, California; Chuck Konzelman, *Unplanned*, Los Angeles, California; Francesca Tripodi, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia; Marilyn Musgrave, Susan B. Anthony List, Fort Morgan, Colorado; Eugene Kontorovich, George Mason University Antonin Scalia School of Law, Arlington, Virginia; and Robert Parker, Brush Prairie, Washington.

SBA'S INTERNATIONAL TRADE PROGRAM

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: Committee concluded a hearing to examine reauthorization of the Small Business Administration's international trade programs, after receiving testimony David M. Glaccum, Associate Administrator, Office of International Trade, Small Business Administration; Manny Mencia, Enterprise Florida, on behalf of the State International Development Organizations, and Daniel J. Pische, First American Bank, both of Coral Gables, Florida; Signe Pringle, Maryland Department of Commerce, Baltimore, on behalf of the State International Development Organizations; and Scott Gornall, BAON Enterprises, LLC, Chestertown, Maryland.

VA MISSION ACT

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine VA MISSION Act, focusing on implementing the Veterans Community Care Program, after receiving testimony from Richard A. Stone, Executive in Charge, Kameron Matthews, Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Community Care, and Jennifer MacDonald, VA MISSION Act Lead, all of the Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; Sharon M. Silas, Acting Director, Health Care, Government Accountability Office; Adrian Atizado, Disabled American Veterans, Washington, D.C.; and Merideth Randles, Milliman, Inc., Seattle, Washington.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 97 public bills, H.R. 2195–2291; and 15 resolutions, H.J. Res. 56; H. Con. Res. 33; and H. Res. 302–314 were introduced. **Pages H3251–56**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H3259–60**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Cisneros to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H3223**

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Rev. Jesse Bernard Bilberry, Jr., Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, LA. **Page H3223**

Save the Internet Act of 2019: The House passed H.R. 1644, to restore the open internet order of the Federal Communications Commission, by a yea-and-nay vote of 232 yeas to 190 nays, Roll No. 167. Consideration began yesterday, April 9th. **Pages H3224–39**

Rejected the Walden motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Energy and Commerce with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment, by a recorded vote of 204 ayes to 216 noes, Roll No. 166. **Pages H3237–39**

Agreed to:

Davids (KS) amendment (No. 7 printed in part A of H. Rept. 116–37) that requires that within 1 year of enactment, the GAO shall produce a report examining the FCC's efforts to assess competition in the wireline and wireless broadband internet access markets, and how the FCC can better assess competition, and what steps, if any the FCC can take to better increase competition in the wireless and wireline broadband internet access markets; **Pages H3224–26**

Stanton amendment (No. 8 printed in part A of H. Rept. 116–37) that directs the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission to engage tribal stakeholders and providers to ensure accessible and affordable broadband on tribal lands; **Pages H3226–29**

Trone amendment (No. 9 printed in part A of H. Rept. 116–37) that finds that annual FCC reports on the state of broadband deployment are important to fostering further deployment and that Congress relies on the accuracy of these reports; requires that 1) the FCC may not release such a report based on information it knows to be inaccurate and 2) the Commission use its best efforts to ensure all future reports are accurate and to correct past inaccuracies prior to the report's release; **Pages H3229–30**

Brindisi amendment (No. 10 printed in part A of H. Rept. 116–37) that requires the GAO to produce a report about the ways in which the U.S. government can promote the deployment of broadband Internet access service, especially to rural areas and areas currently unserved by high-speed broadband access; **Pages H3230–32**

Spanberger amendment (No. 11 printed in part A of H. Rept. 116–37) that requires the GAO to determine the accuracy and granularity of broadband maps produced by the FCC, and to submit to Congress a report that identifies programs and actions restored under 2(b) that rely on these maps and that makes recommendations for how the FCC can produce more accurate maps; **Pages H3232–33**

Delgado amendment (No. 4 printed in part A of H. Rept. 116–37) that was debated on April 9th that requires GAO to produce a report, within 1 year, reviewing the benefits to consumers of broadband internet access providers offering broadband internet access service on a standalone basis and what steps Congress can take to increase the availability of standalone broadband internet access service to consumers, particularly those living in rural areas (by a recorded vote of 363 ayes to 60 noes, Roll No. 163); **Page H3235**

Wexton amendment (No. 6 printed in part A of H. Rept. 116–37) that was debated on April 9th that requires the Federal Communications Commission to submit to Congress within 30 days a plan

for how the Commission will evaluate and address problems with the collection on Form 477 of data regarding the deployment of broadband Internet access service (by a recorded vote of 376 ayes to 46 noes, Roll No. 164); and **Pages H3235–36**

McAdams amendment (No. 12 printed in part A of H. Rept. 116–37) that affirms that ISPs can still block unlawful content, such as child pornography or copyright-infringing materials (by a recorded vote of 423 ayes with none voting ''no'', Roll No. 165). **Pages H3233–35, H3236–37**

H. Res. 294, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 1644) and (H.R. 2021) was agreed to yesterday, April 9th.

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 2:30 p.m. on Friday, April 12th. **Page H3239**

Investigative Subcommittees of the Committee on Ethics—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to be available to serve on investigative subcommittees of the Committee on Ethics for the 116th Congress: Representatives Bonamici, Higgins (NY), Keating, Krishnamoorthi, Perlmutter, Raskin, Sewell (AL), Soto and Titus. **Page H3249**

Investigative Subcommittees of the Committee on Ethics—Appointment: Read a letter from Representative McCarthy, Minority Leader, in which he appointed the following Members of the House to be available to serve on investigative subcommittees of the Committee on Ethics for the 116th Congress: Representatives Flores, Rose (TN), Olson, Wagner, Katko, Cline, Huizenga, Rouzer, Rutherford and Hartzler. **Page H3249**

Presidential Message: Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress that the national emergency with respect to Somalia that was declared on April 12, 2010 is to continue in effect beyond April 12, 2019—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 116–27). **Page H3243**

Quorum Calls—Votes: One yea-and-nay vote and four recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H3235, H3236, H3236–37, H3238–39, and H3239. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Committee Meetings

MEMBER DAY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense held a hearing entitled ''Member Day''. Testimony was heard from Chairman McGovern, and Representatives Escobar, Carter of Georgia, Johnson of Louisiana, Williams, Scanlon, Khanna, and Rouda.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR FARMERS THROUGH SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled ''Economic Opportunities for Farmers through Sustainable Agricultural Practices''. Testimony was heard from Kevin Norton, Acting Associate Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Department of Agriculture; and public witnesses.

APPROPRIATIONS—DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies held a budget hearing on the Department of Transportation. Testimony was heard from Elaine L. Chao, Secretary, Department of Transportation.

THE FISCAL YEAR 2020 NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BUDGET REQUEST FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

Committee on Armed Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''The Fiscal Year 2020 National Defense Authorization Budget Request for the Department of the Navy''. Testimony was heard from Richard Spencer, Secretary of the Navy, U.S. Navy; Admiral John Richardson, Chief of Naval Operations, U.S. Navy; and General Robert Neller, Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps.

EXAMINING THE POLICIES AND PRIORITIES OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Committee on Education and Labor: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Examining the Policies and Priorities of the U.S. Department of Education''. Testimony was heard from Betsy DeVos, Secretary, Department of Education.

INVESTING IN AMERICA'S ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE: IMPROVING ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CREATING A DIVERSE WORKFORCE

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Energy held a hearing entitled ''Investing in America's Energy Infrastructure: Improving Energy Efficiency and Creating a Diverse Workforce''. Testimony was heard from Daniel R. Simmons, Assistant Secretary, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy; and James E.

Campos, Director, Office of Economic Impact and Diversity, Department of Energy.

PRICED OUT OF A LIFESAVING DRUG: GETTING ANSWERS ON THE RISING COST OF INSULIN

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled ''Priced Out of a Lifesaving Drug: Getting Answers on the Rising Cost of Insulin''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

HOLDING MEGABANKS ACCOUNTABLE: A REVIEW OF GLOBAL SYSTEMICALLY IMPORTANT BANKS 10 YEARS AFTER THE FINANCIAL CRISIS

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Holding Megabanks Accountable: A Review of Global Systemically Important Banks 10 years after the Financial Crisis''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE IMPORTANCE OF U.S. ASSISTANCE TO CENTRAL AMERICA

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''The Importance of U.S. Assistance to Central America''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

EXAMINING THE SPENDING PRIORITIES AND MISSIONS OF THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE AND THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands held a hearing entitled ''Examining the Spending Priorities and Missions of the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management''. Testimony was heard from Victoria Christiansen, Chief, U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture; and Brian Steed, Deputy Director, Policy and Programs, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior.

SBA 7(A) BUDGET PROPOSAL AND THE IMPACT OF FEE STRUCTURE CHANGES

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax, and Capital Access held a hearing entitled ''SBA 7(a) Budget Proposal and the Impact of Fee Structure Changes''. Testimony was heard from Tim Gribben, Chief Financial Officer and Association Administrator for Performance Management, U.S. Small Business Administration; and public witnesses.

THE COST OF DOING NOTHING: WHY FULL UTILIZATION OF THE HARBOR MAINTENANCE TRUST FUND AND INVESTMENT IN OUR NATION'S WATERWAYS MATTER

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment held a hearing entitled ''The Cost of Doing Nothing: Why Full Utilization of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund and Investment in our Nation's Waterways Matter''. Testimony was heard from Rick Goche, Commissioner, Port of Bandon, Oregon; Eugene Seroka, Executive Director, Port of Los Angeles, San Pedro, California; and public witnesses.

COMPREHENSIVE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS TO ENHANCE SOCIAL SECURITY

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Social Security held a hearing entitled ''Comprehensive Legislative Proposals to Enhance Social Security''. Testimony was heard from Stephen C. Goss, Chief Actuary, Social Security Administration; and public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2019

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2020 for the Department of Agriculture, 10 a.m., SD–192.

Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2020 for the National Institutes of Health, 10 a.m., SD–124.

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the proposal to establish a United States Space Force, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet, to hold hearings to examine illegal robocalls, 10 a.m., SH–216.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine opportunities for energy innovation and other potential solutions to help address global climate change, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Kate Marie Byrnes, of Florida, to

be Ambassador to the Republic of North Macedonia, Edward F. Crawford, of Ohio, to be Ambassador to Ireland, and David Michael Satterfield, of Missouri, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Turkey, all of the Department of State, 2:30 p.m., SD–419.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Thursday, April 11

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of David Bernhardt, of Virginia, to be Secretary of the Interior, post-cloture.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2:30 p.m., Friday, April 12

House Chamber

Program for Friday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 2:30 p.m.

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